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But I have to laugh. If my football picks did that poorly, I'd find another line of work. Here's how ***MY*** investments go. Based on hypothetical $100 bets, if my football selections go 6 out of 10 I collect $600. I pay out $440. I keep $160 profit on an investment of $1,000. That's 16% profit. That's ***ONE WEEKEND!***

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BIG GAME WINNERS FROM 2009

50 UNIT COLLEGE KICKOFF
S5 Texas A&M (-15) New Mexico WON 41-6

100 UNIT SEPTEMBER COLLEGE BLOWOUT
S12 BYU (-18) Tulane WON 54-3

50 UNIT NFL OPENING WEEK BLOWOUT
S13 Ravens (-12½) Chiefs WON 38-24

100-UNIT AFC GAME OF THE YEAR
O11 Bengals (+8½) Ravens WON 17-14

100-UNIT OCTOBER MISMATCH OF THE MONTH
O17 Houston (-17) Tulane WON 44-16

100-UNIT NFC GAME OF THE YEAR
O18 Panthers (-3) Buccaneers WON 28-21

200-UNIT PERSONAL BEST COLLEGE GAME OF THE YEAR
N7 Fresno St. (-9½) Idaho WON 31-21

100-UNIT NOVEMBER COLLEGE GAME OF MONTH
N20 C.Florida (-22) Tulane WON 49-0

200-UNIT NFL BLOWOUT OF THE YEAR
N22 Patriots (-10½) Jets WON 31-14

200-UNIT NFL BLOWOUT FINALE
J3 Bills (-8) Colts WON 30-7

D5 200 UNIT COLLEGE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND SLAM
50-Units E. Carolina (+2½) Houston WON 38-32
50-Units Alabama (+5) Florida WON 32-13
50-Units Georgia Tech (PK) Clemson WON 39-34
50-Units Texas (-14) Nebraska Lost 13-12

D13 150-UNIT NFL GRAND SLAM
25 Units Colts (-6½) Broncos WON 28-16
25 Units Jets (-4) Buccaneers WON 26-3
25 Units Bills (-2) Chiefs WON 16-10
25 Units Texas (-7) Seahawks WON 34-7
20 Units 4-Team Parlay SWEEPS 4-0
30 Units Six 5-Unit 2-Team Parlays SWEEPS 6-0

More About Kelso Sturgeon...

- Author: *"The Complete Guide To Sports Betting"* (Harper & Row)
- Authored over 1,000 articles on handicapping seen in *College & Pro Football Newsweekly, Sportsform.*
- Seen on TV's *Pro Line* (USA Cable Network)
- Profiled in: *Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Playboy.*
- Creator of the famous "World Series of Handicapping"
- Only sports handicapper to ever address the United States Congress on the subject of sports handicapping.

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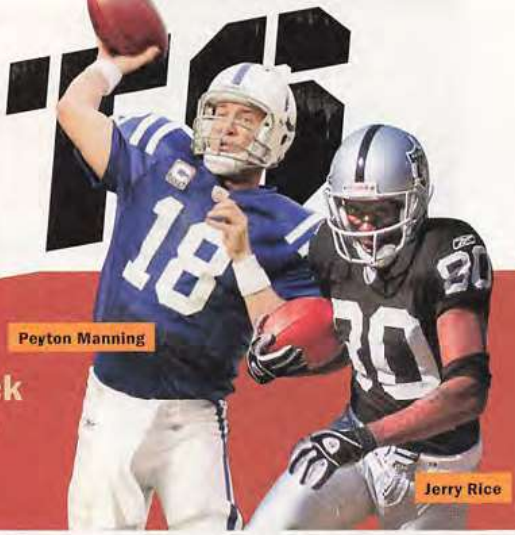
TARGETS

How today's players stack up to the all-time greats

ACTIVE PLAYERS FROM 2009 IN CAPS
—compiled by STATS, Inc.



Peyton Manning

Jerry Rice

(L TO R): UPI / MARK COWAN / NEWSCOM; JOHN PYLE / CSM / NEWSCOM

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George Blanda	2,002
JASON ELAM	1,983
JASON HANSON	1,835
Norm Johnson	1,736
JOHN KASAY	1,731
Nick Lowery	1,711
Jan Stenerud	1,699
Eddie Murray	1,594
Al Del Greco	1,584
ADAM VINATIERI	1,530
RYAN LONGWELL	1,502
Steve Christie	1,476
Pat Leahy	1,470
Jim Turner	1,439
Matt Bahr	1,422
Jeff Wilkins	1,416
Mark Moseley	1,382
Jim Bakken	1,380
Fred Cox	1,365
Lou Groza	1,349
OLINDO MARE	1,314
Jerry Rice	1,256
Jim Breech	1,246
Pete Stoyanovich	1,236
Chris Bahr	1,213
Kevin Butler	1,208
DAVID AKERS	1,182
Gino Cappelletti	1,130
Ray Wersching	1,122
KRIS BROWN	1,103
Don Cockroft	1,080
Garo Yepremian	1,074
Mike Vanderjagt	1,067
JOE NEDNEY	1,063
Emmitt Smith	1,052
Todd Peterson	1,043
Bruce Gossett	1,031
JAY FEELY	1,013
Jeff Jaeger	1,008
RIAN LINDELL	1,005
SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI	1,000
Sam Baker	977
PHIL DAWSON	966
Greg Davis	962
Rafael Septien	960
Lou Michaels	955

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BRETT FAVRE	69,329
Dan Marino	61,361
John Elway	51,475
PEYTON MANNING	50,128
Warren Moon	49,325
Fran Tarkenton	47,003
Vinny Testaverde	46,233
Drew Bledsoe	44,611
Dan Fouts	43,040
Joe Montana	40,551
Johnny Unitas	40,239
KERRY COLLINS	38,618
Dave Krieg	38,147
Boomer Esiason	37,920
Jim Kelly	35,467
Jim Everett	34,837
Jim Hart	34,665
Steve DeBerg	34,241
John Hadl	33,503
Phil Simms	33,462
Steve Young	33,124
Troy Aikman	32,942
DONOVAN McNABB	32,873
Ken Anderson	32,838
KURT WARNER	32,344
Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
MARK BRUNELL	31,928
John Brodie	31,548
Steve McNair	31,304
TOM BRADY	30,844
Norm Snead	30,797
DREW BREES	30,646
Randall Cunningham	29,979
Joe Ferguson	29,817
Roman Gabriel	29,444
Jake Plummer	29,253
Brad Johnson	29,054
Rich Gannon	28,743
Len Dawson	28,711
Chris Chandler	28,484
Trent Green	28,475
Y.A. Tittle	28,339
Ron Jaworski	28,190
Terry Bradshaw	27,989
Ken Stabler	27,938
Craig Morton	27,908
Joe Namath	27,663
Jeff George	27,602
Jon Kitna	27,293
George Blanda	26,920

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BRETT FAVRE	6,083
Dan Marino	4,967
PEYTON MANNING	4,232
John Elway	4,123
Warren Moon	3,988
Drew Bledsoe	3,839
Vinny Testaverde	3,787
Fran Tarkenton	3,686
Joe Montana	3,409
Dan Fouts	3,297
KERRY COLLINS	3,279
Dave Krieg	3,105
Boomer Esiason	2,969
Troy Aikman	2,898
Steve DeBerg	2,874
Jim Kelly	2,874
Jim Everett	2,841
Johnny Unitas	2,830
DONOVAN McNABB	2,801
MARK BRUNELL	2,753
Steve McNair	2,733
DREW BREES	2,697
TOM BRADY	2,672
Brad Johnson	2,668
Steve Young	2,667
KURT WARNER	2,666
Ken Anderson	2,654
Jim Hart	2,593
Phil Simms	2,576
Rich Gannon	2,533
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John Brodie	2,469
Jon Kitna	2,462
Sonny Jurgensen	2,433
Randall Cunningham	2,429
Joe Ferguson	2,369
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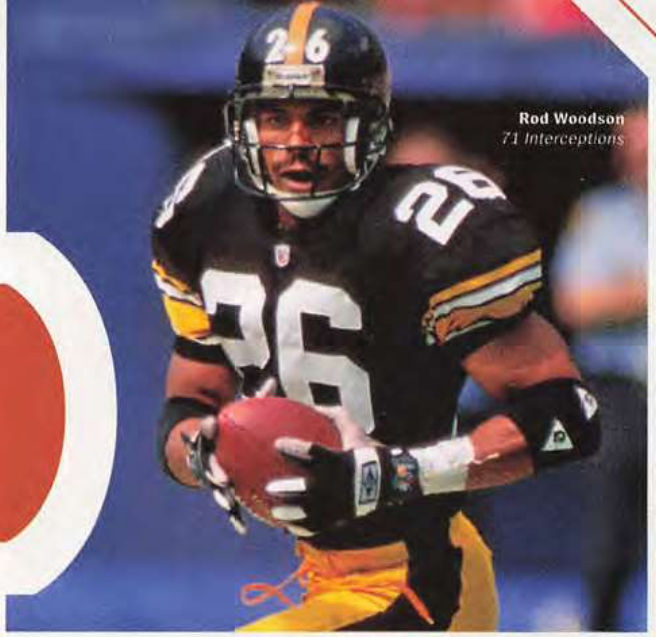

Rod Woodson
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John Hadl	2,363
Chris Chandler	2,328
MATT HASSELBECK	2,306
Jim Harbaugh	2,305
Jeff George	2,298
Norm Snead	2,276
Ken Stabler	2,270
Trent Green	2,266
JEFF GARCIA	2,264
Ron Jaworski	2,187
Len Dawson	2,136
Y.A. Tittle	2,118
Ken O'Brien	2,110

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Emmitt Smith	18,355
Walter Payton	16,726
Barry Sanders	15,269
Curtis Martin	14,101
Jerome Bettis	13,662
Eric Dickerson	13,259
Tony Dorsett	12,739
LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON	12,490
Jim Brown	12,312
Marshall Faulk	12,279
EDGERRIN JAMES	12,246
Marcus Allen	12,243
Franco Harris	12,120
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FRED TAYLOR	11,540
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Gerald Riggs	8,188
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Cris Carter	1,101
Tim Brown	1,094
ISAAC BRUCE	1,024
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Andre Reed	951
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MUHSIN MUHAMMAD	860
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Marvin Harrison	14,580
RANDY MOSS	14,465
James Lofton	14,004
Cris Carter	13,899
Henry Ellard	13,777
TORRY HOLT	13,382
Andre Reed	13,198
Steve Largent	13,089
Irving Fryar	12,785
Art Monk	12,721
Jimmy Smith	12,287
Charlie Joiner	12,146
Michael Irvin	11,904
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REGGIE WAYNE	9,393
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Raymond Berry	9,275
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Tony Martin	9,065
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Deion Sanders	53
Jack Butler	52
Bobby Dillon	52
Jimmy Patton	52
Mel Renfro	52
Larry Wilson	52
Bobby Bryant	51
Donnie Shell	51
Terrell Buckley	50
Don Burroughs	50
Deron Cherry	50
John Harris	50
Yale Lary	50
Ken Houston	49
Jake Scott	49
Herb Adderley	48
Dave Grayson	48
Richie Petitbon	48
Dave Waymer	48
Willie Wood	48
Ray Buchanan	47
Jimmy Johnson	47
Lemar Parrish	47
Troy Vincent	47
CHAMP BAILEY	46
Jack Christiansen	46
Goose Gonsoulin	46
Mike Haynes	46
Ed Meador	46
ED REED	46
Dave Whitsell	46

SACKS

Bruce Smith	200.0
Reggie White	198.0
Kevin Greene	160.0
Chris Doleman	150.5
Michael Strahan	141.5
Richard Dent	137.5
John Randle	137.5
Leslie O'Neal	132.5
Lawrence Taylor	132.5
Rickey Jackson	128.0
JASON TAYLOR	127.5
Derrick Thomas	126.5
Simeon Rice	122.0
Clyde Simmons	121.5
Sean Jones	113.0
Greg Townsend	109.5
Pat Swilling	107.5
Trace Armstrong	106.0
Kevin Carter	104.5
Neil Smith	104.5
Jim Jeffcoat	102.5
William Fuller	100.5
Charles Haley	100.5
Andre Tippett	100.0
Simon Fletcher	97.5
Jacob Green	97.5
Dexter Manley	97.5
Warren Sapp	96.5
Robert Porcher	95.5
Steve McMichael	95.0
Henry Thomas	93.5
JOEY PORTER	92.0
TREVOR PRYCE	90.0
JOHN ABRAHAM	89.5
Bryant Young	89.5
Ken Harvey	89.0
LEONARD LITTLE	87.5
Willie McGinest	86.0
GREG ELLIS	84.0
DWIGHT FREENEY	84.0
Howie Long	84.0
La'Roi Glover	83.5
Leonard Marshall	83.5
Charles Mann	83.0
PATRICK KERNEY	82.5
Wayne Martin	82.5
Lee Williams	82.5
Tim Harris	81.0
JULIUS PEPPERS	81.0
Hugh Douglas	80.0
Jason Gildon	80.0

GEORGE GOJKOVICH / GETTY IMAGES

As SN's pick to win Super Bowl 45, Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (left) and running back Shonn Greene should be celebrating a lot in 2010.

KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE

With new talent across the board, JETS WILL SOAR TO SUPER BOWL TITLE

By Clifton Brown, *Sporting News* NFL Writer

Instead of standing pat during the offseason, the Jets loaded up.

General manager Mike Tannenbaum's phone bill must have been bigger than D'Brickashaw Ferguson. Look at the talent Tannenbaum acquired: veterans in wide receiver Santonio Holmes, cornerback Antonio Cromartie, running back LaDainian Tomlinson and defensive end Jason Taylor; draft choices in cornerback Kyle Wilson, offensive lineman Vladimir Ducasse and running back Joe McKnight.

"We are trying to win a Super Bowl," said coach Rex Ryan following the draft. "We are trying to win one this year."

We think they will. The Jets are *Sporting News'* pick to win Super Bowl 45, defeating the Cowboys, our choice to win the NFC.

Picking the Jets is risky, especially if they face the Cowboys, who are trying to become the first team to play a Super Bowl on their home field. But the Jets have pulled off Super Bowl upsets before. Joe Namath & Co. shocked the Colts in Super Bowl 3. That was in 1969, the year Neil Armstrong walked on the moon and Woodstock became a part of music history.

Since then, something has always gone wrong for the Jets. Not this time. The Saints overcame their history to win Super Bowl 44. Now it's the Jets' turn. Here are seven reasons why:

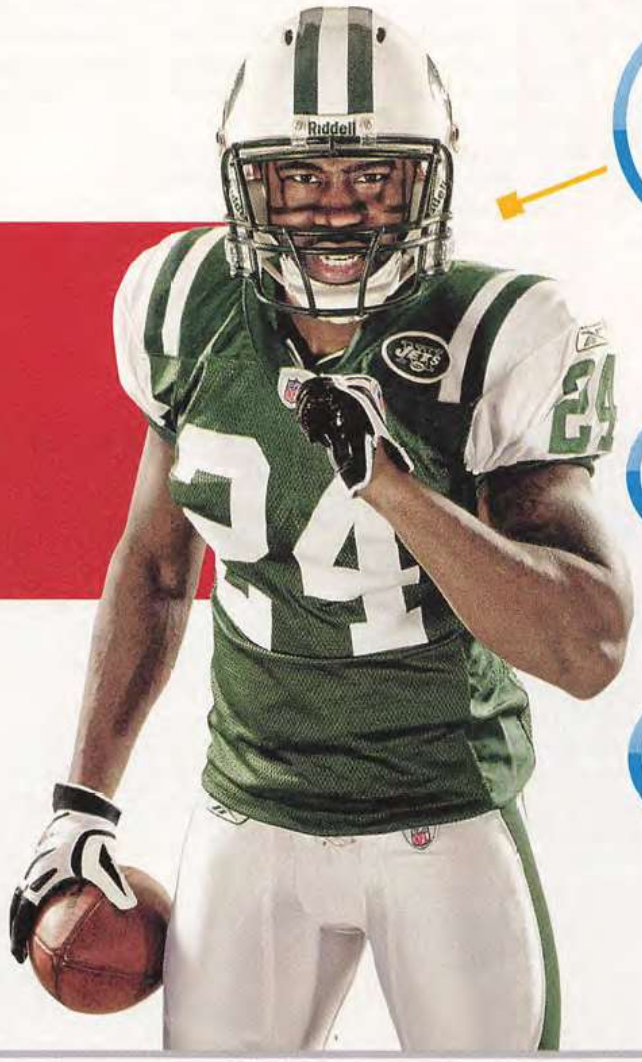
RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

1 DYNAMIC DEFENSE

The heart of this team is Ryan's blitzing, confusing, risk-taking defense. The Jets had the NFL's No. 1 unit last season, and now they have more talent. Their defense is unique, unpredictable and uncomfortable to play against. Facing it can be a one-game nightmare for any team, especially during the playoffs.

2 MATURING MARK

We all know how important a quarterback is. The Jets did the right thing in the 2009 draft, trading up to get Mark Sanchez. Though he struggled at times as a rookie, Sanchez showed toughness, rebounding from bad games and dealing with the pressure of playing in New York. He also played his best football during the playoffs. Sanchez can handle the big stage. The Steelers won a Super Bowl with a rookie (Ben Roethlisberger). The Jets can do it with a sophomore in Sanchez.



3 REVIS ISLAND

Not a vacation spot, thanks to Darrelle Revis, the Jets' marvelous cornerback. His ability to nullify elite receivers and confine them to Revis Island allows the Jets to take defensive risks without surrendering big plays. His importance is hard to overstate.

4 UNDERRATED TALENT

Revis gets his due; linebacker David Harris, end Shaun Ellis and nose tackle Kris Jenkins do not. All play at an extremely high level. Ryan's schemes are cunning, but the Jets' talented defenders make them work.

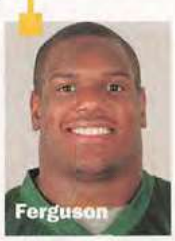
5 BALANCED ATTACK

The Jets had the league's No. 1 rushing attack last season. They needed it because their passing game was inconsistent. Not this season. Putting eight in the box against the Jets' offense will be a lot riskier, and the addition of Holmes will help wideouts Braylon Edwards and Jerricho Cotchery. Shonn Greene's breakout in the playoffs proves he is ready to be a lead runner. And even if Tomlinson cannot find the fountain of youth, drafting Joe McKnight provides insurance.

TOP TO BOTTOM: AL PEREIRA, CHRIS MCGRATH / GETTY IMAGES

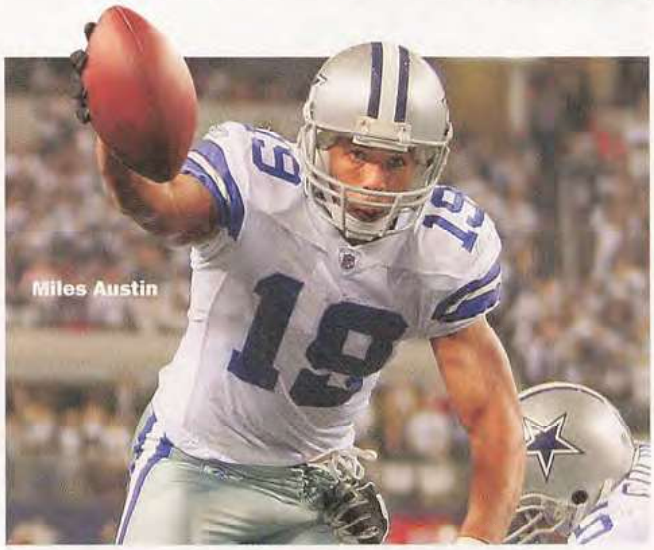
6 A STELLAR OFFENSIVE LINE

Letting perennial Pro Bowl guard Alan Faneca walk was gutsy. But with Ferguson, Nick Mangold, Damien Woody and Brandon Moore, the line remains top-shelf, regardless of what promising rookie Ducasse does.


Ferguson

7 RYAN RULES

Ryan must handle a potentially combustible locker room. Holmes will open the season on a four-game suspension from the NFL, and past locker room leaders such as Faneca, Leon Washington and Thomas Jones are gone. However, players buy into Ryan because he acts like one of them. He is the right coach for this mix. The Jets talk a good game and, this season, they will have the last word.


Miles Austin

WHOM THE JETS WILL BEAT FOR THE TITLE

The grand plan of Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is in motion.

He built his new palace, Cowboys Stadium, 72-foot-tall screen and all. He won the bid to host Super Bowl 45. Now comes the tricky part: getting his team into the big game.

It should happen, because the Cowboys have the makeup to win the NFC. Last season was a major step in capturing the NFC East crown and winning the team's first playoff game since 1996. What about that humiliating playoff loss at Minnesota? It hurt, but it was humble pie. Now, there is no way the Cowboys enter this season fat.

Everything seems to be in place, starting with the offense. Tony Romo is an excellent quarterback who is getting better by becoming less turnover-prone and more disciplined. Dallas has running backs galore in Felix Jones, Marion Barber and Tashard Choice. Miles Austin had a breakout season and became a go-to wide receiver. Jason Witten is an elite tight end, and the Cowboys got a draft gift when talented receiver Dez Bryant fell to them.

Now move to the defense. Dallas has disrupters in linebacker DeMarcus Ware and nose tackle Jay Ratliff. The Cowboys' D also features capable cover guys in Terence Newman and Mike Jenkins. Question Wade Phillips as a head coach if you wish, but do not question his ability as a defensive guru.

Sure, there are potential weaknesses at left tackle and safety, but no team is perfect. The Cowboys' issues are minor compared to most of the competition.

Can Brett Favre play as well for the Vikings he did last year? We don't think so (or even know if he'll play at all). Can the Saints repeat as Super Bowl champs? Few defending champs do. Will anyone else emerge to knock off the Cowboys? It could happen, but we don't expect it. It will be a Jets-Cowboys Super Bowl in Texas.

And that's Jones' kind of party.

—Clifton Brown

THREE DARK HORSES THAT COULD GO ALL THE WAY

Titans

If Vince Young picks up where he left off last season, they could be extremely dangerous. Having Chris Johnson, the most productive running back in football last season, puts constant pressure on opposing defenses. End Derrick Morgan was a perfect draft pick for a team that needed a pass rusher. Coach Jeff Fisher usually gets the most out of his team, and it's unlikely they'll start 0-6 again. Look for Tennessee to make the playoffs, and to be a tough out.

Falcons

They should return to the postseason after a one-year absence, assuming quarterback Matt Ryan stays healthy. Ryan has superb talent to work with at the skill positions, including running back Michael Turner, wideout Roddy White and tight end Tony Gonzalez. Secondary play was a weakness last season, but signing cornerback Dunta Robinson will help. It seems the NFC South never has a repeat winner, so if the Saints slip, Atlanta is poised to take the division. And if Ryan gets hot during the playoffs, watch out.

Packers

Give quarterback Aaron Rodgers time, and he will put up big numbers. The Packers could have made a playoff run last season if they had gotten past the Cardinals. The key will be improving a porous offensive line, and Green Bay looked to do that by taking Iowa tackle Bryan Bulaga in the first round of the draft. Another key will be finding a way to beat the Vikings head-to-head. The Packers would be a tough wild-card team, but their championship chances will be enhanced if they can win the NFC North.

—Clifton Brown

MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE

Q & A WITH ...

CHRIS JOHNSON

Chris Johnson is fast. He ran the 40-yard dash at the NFL Scouting Combine in 2008 in a record-tying 4.24 seconds.

Chris Johnson is also prolific. In only his second year in the NFL, he became the sixth player to rush for 2,000 yards (2,006) in a season and set the single-season record for yards from scrimmage (2,509). He was named the *Associated Press*' Offensive Player of the Year and was selected as a starter in the Pro Bowl.

In a conversation with *Sporting News*' Dennis Dillon, the Titans running back talks about his goal for next season, why he thinks he should be the highest-paid player who isn't a quarterback and a potential sprint race that could determine the fastest man in the world.

SN: What can you do for an encore in 2010?

JOHNSON: I'm going to try and go after Eric Dickerson's record (2,105 rushing yards). I feel this is the year to break it.

SN: Which meant more to you–becoming the sixth player in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season or breaking the single-season record for yards from scrimmage?

JOHNSON: The 2,000 yards are special to me, because I play running back and rushing yards are the first thing. The other record was also great—to have an NFL record just in my second year—but I don't think that one has really hit me yet.

SN: Is there any other running back in the NFL right now who could rush for 2,000 yards in a season?

JOHNSON: No, 'cause they're not me.

SN: Is it true you were going to give your offensive linemen new cars if you rushed for 2,000 yards?

JOHNSON: That's what they wanted, but I gave them some black diamond watches engraved with "CJ2K." I gave those to all of my offensive linemen, (tight end) Alge Crumpler and (fullback) Ahmard Hall. I also paid for their airfare and rooms to go to the Pro Bowl.

SN: Who's the best running back in the NFL?

JOHNSON: Chris Johnson. There's no reason anybody should ask a question like that. I feel like that's a dumb question. Just look at the numbers.

SN: Is there any player in the NFL who is faster than you?

JOHNSON: Not at all. No one is close. Again, look at the numbers. Look at the 40 time.

SN: There have been rumors that you might race Usain Bolt. Is that ever going to happen?

JOHNSON: Yeah, next year. Probably in (Las) Vegas. It's going to be bigger than the (Floyd) Mayweather fight.

SN: Who will win?

JOHNSON: I'm going to win.

SN: Who is your favorite running back in the NFL to watch?

JOHNSON: Adrian Peterson. He's a good back. He's the second-best back.

SN: What are your thoughts on a new contract?

JOHNSON: I know they're not going to pay a running back like they pay quarterbacks, but I feel like I should be the highest-paid player outside of a quarterback, like Peyton Manning and those guys. I feel like the things I've done, nobody has done them. The fifth guy to rush for 2,000 yards. The only guy with 2,500 all-purpose yards. The only guy with 2,000 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards. No one else has done that, so why shouldn't I be paid like that?

SN: Could the money issue become a point of contention between you and the Titans?

JOHNSON: I'll let my agent deal with that.

SN: Why weren't you in Nashville in the spring, participating with your teammates in the Titans' offseason program?

JOHNSON: I didn't train with them last year. I went there for OTAs (offseason organized team activities), but I didn't do offseason training with them. I did my own program, and it worked well. So I'm going to stick to the same program. I feel like if I did that program and it worked that way, why change it up? I don't do a lot of conditioning workouts; I do a lot of speed work to keep my speed up. Whatever city I'm in, I find a facility and just train there.

SN: The cleats and gloves you wore in the final game last season were sent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Will there be a bust of you in there someday?

JOHNSON: I hope. I'm too young of a player. I really don't think about that right now.

SN: Do people recognize you now wherever you go?

JOHNSON: Yeah, they do. Everywhere.

SN: What's something about you that would surprise your teammates to learn?

JOHNSON: I watch the Lifetime Channel. They've got good movies.

SN: If you weren't playing football, what would you be doing?

JOHNSON: I'd be rappin'. I'd at least try.

ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

A number of NFL stars will put on new uniforms in 2010. Here's a look at nine impact players who will have a change of scenery this season, and how their new stops compare with their old digs.

QB DONOVAN McNABB

What he'll miss about the Eagles: A good line and a promising core of speedy young playmakers were great assets, but nothing was better than his comfort with coach Andy Reid, on both the personal and schematic levels.

What he'll like about the Redskins: He comes to Washington in the role of a revered savior, rather than a quarterback who can't win the big one. He should also love playing for his new coach, Mike Shanahan.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He's a good fit who brings leadership and instant credibility. He should bring more confidence to the overall offense in terms of playmaking ability."

RB LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON

What he'll miss about the Chargers: Their steady, explosive offense that was a good fit for the skills he brought as a receiver. After being a longtime hero and the face of the franchise, he must adjust to more of a supporting role.

What he'll like about the Jets: It will be easier for his 31-year-old legs to hold up behind the game's premier run-blocking line. Even though San Diego has been a consistent contender, New York has a better shot at the Super Bowl this season.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He's a solid fit in that a young runner (Shonn Greene) gets to learn from a Hall of Famer. His production should be a good complement."

RB THOMAS JONES

What he'll miss about the Jets: He's being pulled away from running behind arguably the league's best front five. He was also leaned on as an important on- and off-field leader for a winning team.

What he'll like about the Chiefs: He can provide a new, exciting 1-2 punch with rising star Jamaal Charles, and his experience and toughness will mean just as much to a rebuilding team.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He should bring good production as a committee back. He's a good receiver and runs well on screens and draws."

WR ANTONIO BRYANT

What he'll miss about the Buccaneers: Not too much, as he'll leave behind a developing and unproven quarterback situation. Last season, he earned an easy $9 million; now Bryant has to prove he's worth a much bigger contract.

What he'll like about the Bengals: Chad Ochocinco is still there to sometimes draw double coverage and, working against No. 2 corners, Bryant should provide a nice, big, physical target for strong-armed Carson Palmer.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "The big question is, which Antonio will show up? The hungry wide receiver or the complacent player?"

WR BRANDON MARSHALL

What he'll miss about the Broncos: Despite issues with coach Josh McDaniels, it didn't put him in the doghouse on the field. He remained the center of attention in the passing game.

What he'll like about the Dolphins: They're making no secret that he's

the go-to guy, and he will benefit from developing a good rapport with Miami quarterback Chad Henne.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He's an impact player and an extreme talent if he stays healthy. His attitude is shaped by his ability to be on the field."

WR SANTONIO HOLMES

What he'll miss about the Steelers: His on-field chemistry with Ben Roethlisberger was a big boost to his big-play flair. With Roethlisberger's mobility extending plays, Holmes benefited using speed that helped get him open deep downfield.

What he'll like about the Jets: The team will put him in position to focus solely on football, and the chance to operate opposite Braylon Edwards in a run-oriented offense should have Holmes (who's suspended for the first four games of the season) often facing inferior coverage.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He's a talented but troubled wide receiver who is in a town full of off-the-field temptations."

DE JULIUS PEPPERS

What he'll miss about the Panthers: Peppers has consistently played sound football in the basketball-crazed state of North Carolina throughout his career, and the expectations and demands will be a lot heavier in football-first Chicago.

What he'll like about the Bears: He comes in with the size and quickness for a 4-3 end in a cover 2 defense. Playing for coach Lovie Smith should also get the most out of his combination of power and athleticism.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He's an impact player when he is motivated, and he should be motivated every week on this defense."

LB KARLOS DANSBY

What he'll miss about the Cardinals: Arizona's aggressive defense consistently put him in good position to make disruptive plays. It was the ideal scheme for his versatile skills.

What he'll like about the Dolphins: Because Miami still is trying to build the rest of its front seven, the team will rely on much of his freelancing to raise its takeaway quotient.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He's an athletic linebacker in a scheme that caters to linebackers. (He) should have productive numbers."

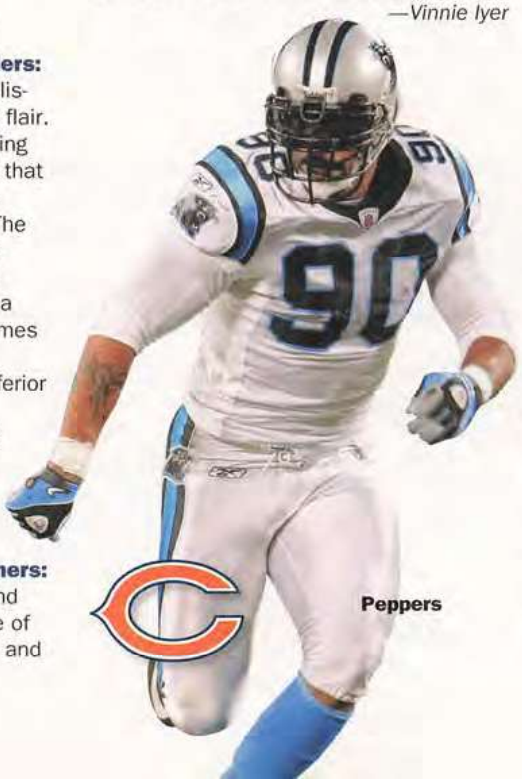
S ANTREL ROLLE

What he'll miss about the Cardinals: There was much coverage burden taken off him with Dominique Rogers-Cromartie and Bryant McFadden at cornerback, allowing Rolle to be more of a confident ballhawk.

What he'll like about the Giants: New defensive coordinator Perry Fewell, fresh from Buffalo, has a history of putting safeties in prime playmaking roles, and should count on Rolle to be very active.

A SCOUT'S VIEW: "He's a physical safety with good ball skills. He should help solidify an up-and-coming secondary."

—Vinnie Iyer



Peppers

TOP TO BOTTOM: ICON SMI / NEWSCOM; BOB DONNAN / US PRESSWIRE

REHAB REPORT

Having a star player return from an injury is like having your kid return from a yearlong trip overseas. Teams can't wait to welcome back these 11 high-profile players who were hurt last year or during this offseason.

BRIAN URLACHER, MLB, Bears (fractured wrist)

Imagine the Colts without Peyton Manning. The Vikings without Adrian Peterson. The Muppets without Kermit the Frog. That was what Chicago's defense was like after Urlacher suffered a fractured wrist in the season opener last season. The Bears are ecstatic to have their defensive linchpin back.

WES WELKER, WR, Patriots (torn ACL and MCL)

Welker has become the league's premier slot receiver. He led the league in receptions (123) last year despite missing almost three full games. If you don't think Welker makes a big difference in the Patriots' passing game, consider quarterback Tom Brady's numbers with and without Welker last year. With Welker: 68.0 percent completion percentage, 102.9 passer rating. Without Welker (including the playoff loss to Baltimore): 55.8 and 63.5.

BOB SANDERS, SS, Colts (torn biceps tendon)

The Colts have become used to playing without the NFL's 2007 Defensive Player of the Year. Sanders' career has been overshadowed by injuries, and he has missed more games (49) than he's played (47). Still, Indianapolis is a lot better when he's on the field.

LOFA TATUPU, MLB, Seahawks (torn pectoral muscle)

Seattle's defense suffered after Tatupu, a three-time Pro Bowler, was lost for the season in October. Former Seahawks coach Jim Mora called him the "axis of communication" inside the defense.

ANTWAN ODOM, DE, Bengals (ruptured Achilles tendon)

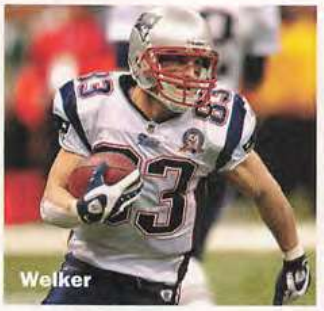
Odom was tied for the league lead in sacks when he went down in mid-October. His eight sacks equaled his career high in '07, when he started all 16 games for Tennessee. After Odom was lost, the Bengals' pass rush slumped to only eight sacks in the last six games.

AL HARRIS, CB, Packers (torn ACL, torn LCL, torn hamstring)

With Harris out, the Steelers and Cardinals ripped apart the Green Bay secondary late in the regular season and in the playoffs. One of the best press corners in the league, Harris will be fighting big odds—age and a catastrophic injury—to make his return, but he has overcome them before.

JORDAN GROSS, LT, Panthers (broken tibia and fibula)
JEFF OTAH, RT, Panthers (torn meniscus)

Losing one starting tackle can cause an offensive line coach to pull on his hair. Losing both starting tackles can cause him to pull out his hair. Gross, the anchor of Carolina's line and a leader in the locker room, had been playing at an elite level for several years. Otah, a second-year player, had started 25 games before his injury.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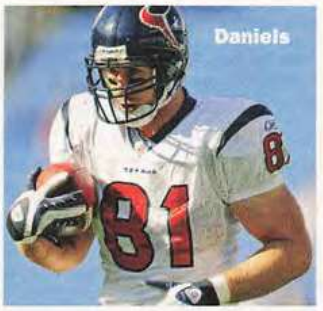
Daniels

OWEN DANIELS, TE, Texans (torn ACL)

One of the league's up-and-coming tight ends—he made the Pro Bowl after the 2008 season—Daniels led all tight ends in receiving yards (497) entering a Nov. 1 game in Buffalo, where he suffered his season-ending injury. Daniels provides an underneath, complementary threat to wide receiver Andre Johnson for quarterback Matt Schaub.

STEWART BRADLEY, MLB, Eagles (torn ACL)

Bradley appeared poised for a breakout season before tearing up his knee last August in practice. He was the team's only three-down linebacker in 2008, finishing second in tackles. Bradley's absence forced the Eagles to start six different players at middle linebacker last season.

RYAN CLADY, LT, Broncos (partially torn patellar tendon)

One of the best left tackles in the league, Clady suffered the injury while playing basketball. He underwent surgery April 28 and is expected to be out for three to four months. The Broncos are unsure whether they'll have Clady back in time for the regular-season opener.

—Dennis Dillon

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THE DRAFT: LOOKING AHEAD

Our War Room scouts give you their early take on next April's draft with these 15 players who should be on teams' radar.

10 SENIORS TO WATCH

(in alphabetical order)

MARVIN AUSTIN, DT, North Carolina
When our scouts evaluated fellow North Carolina defensive linemen E.J. Wilson and Cam Thomas for the 2010 draft, it was Austin's athleticism and overall play that stood out. Not only is he strong, but Austin also has the quickness and athleticism to avoid blockers along with an explosive closing burst to finish plays. If Austin continues to improve during his senior campaign, he could be in the discussion to be a top-five pick.

AHMAD BLACK, S, Florida
Black possesses the physical talent to be an impact player against the run and in coverage. He also does a good job of reading the quarterback from deep coverage and is able to close fast on passes in front of him. When teams were breaking down film on fellow Gators safety Major Wright for this year's draft, many said they didn't understand why Black stayed for his senior season, as he could have been a high pick.

GABE CARIMI, OT, Wisconsin
Carimi shows exceptional strength and regular dominance as a run blocker at the point of attack. His size and skills are best suited for right tackle, but he can compete at either position. Carimi is similar to current Vikings tackle Phil Loadholt. He will be a first-year starter at tackle for an NFL team next fall.

BRUCE CARTER, OLB, North Carolina
Carter is another Tar Heel defender who is going to be a high pick in 2011. He reads the play fast, gets started to the ball quickly and has good speed and the closing burst to consistently finish plays. In order to be considered for the top half of the first round, though, Carter is going to need a big 2010 due to the high number of standout North Carolina defensive players.

ADRIAN CLAYBORN, DE, Iowa
Clayborn plays with great strength, leverage and power at the point of attack. He is able to hold his position against double teams and is often in the backfield disrupting plays. Clayborn has the ability to start or serve as a quality backup in his first NFL season. However, he pleaded guilty in March to a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct after an altercation with a cab driver, and any additional off-field trouble will push his draft stock down.

MARK HERZLICH, OLB, Boston College
At this time last year, Herzlich was considered the best outside linebacker in the country and a likely top-10 pick in the 2010 draft. But he was then diagnosed with cancer and had to miss last season while undergoing treatment. Now cancer-free, Herzlich will try to rebuild his football career. He is an instinctive and competitive defender who attacks toward the ball quickly and aggressively. If he can regain his form, look for Herzlich's name to be called early in the draft.

CAMERON HEYWARD, DE, Ohio State
Heyward is exactly what an NFL team running a 3-4 defense is looking for in a five-technique defensive end. He has great size, length and strength as a run defender. Heyward, the son of the late NFL running back Craig "Ironhead" Heyward, should be one of the first defensive ends taken off the board in 2011.

GREG JONES, OLB, Michigan State
Michigan State's entire defensive scheme is designed to funnel the ball back to Jones to make the play. He is quick to read blocking schemes and takes good angles in pursuit of the ball. He has the playing speed, quickness and lateral range to consistently make plays on the perimeter and downfield. Overall, he is a physical, instinctive, productive and durable NFL prospect who will start immediately as a rookie.

RYAN KERRIGAN, DE, Purdue
Kerrigan plays with outstanding strength and leverage as a run defender at the point of attack. Overall, he reminds our scouts of a shorter version of Pro Bowler Jared Allen. Kerrigan will fit best in the NFL with a team that runs a 4-3 defense. He is a first-year starter at the next level with the potential to improve.

JAKE LOCKER, QB, Washington
Locker is everyone's favorite to be the top pick in the 2011 draft, but in our scouts' view, he has a long way to go before earning that spot. There's little doubt Locker has the size, arm strength and athleticism to be an NFL quarterback, but he needs to improve his mechanics to become a consistently accurate passer. Locker made drastic strides on the field in 2009 and should become an elite prospect with continued improvement.

—Russ Lande

5 JUNIORS TO WATCH

(in alphabetical order)

DA'QUAN BOWERS, DE, Clemson
Bowers was one of the most highly recruited players in the country coming out of high school and has not disappointed during his time with the Tigers. He's highly competitive and has the speed to chase down plays in pursuit all the way across the field. If he continues to improve, Bowers has the combination of strength, athleticism and production to be a top-five pick.

A.J. GREEN, WR, Georgia
Green burst onto the scene as a true freshman catching passes from Matthew Stafford and has been a dominant big-play receiver in the SEC for two seasons. He has what it takes to be a No. 1 wideout in the NFL, as not many young receivers have shown the skills to dominate so quickly in college.

MARK INGRAM, RB, Alabama
The 2009 Heisman Trophy winner is a strong and physical runner with great vision and instincts. He is excellent at finding open holes and can make sharp cuts in traffic. He reminds our scouts a lot of Emmitt Smith because he has the playing strength to consistently gain yards after contact. Ingram is currently in position to be a mid-first-round pick.

RYAN MALLETT, QB, Arkansas
Mallett has excellent arm strength and looks the part of an NFL quarterback. While he still needs to become more consistent with his footwork and mechanics, not many quarterbacks have the ability to make excellent passes with great accuracy like Mallett. A strong 2010 season with the Razorbacks could rocket him up draft boards.

ROBERT QUINN, DE, North Carolina
Quinn is an explosive defender and has been a pass-rushing dynamo for North Carolina since arriving on campus. He is a high-motor player who's shown a knack for playing his best in key situations, consistently coming up with big plays when the Tar Heels needed them most. Many expect Quinn to come out early for the 2011 draft, and he could challenge to be the first defensive player chosen with another dominant season.

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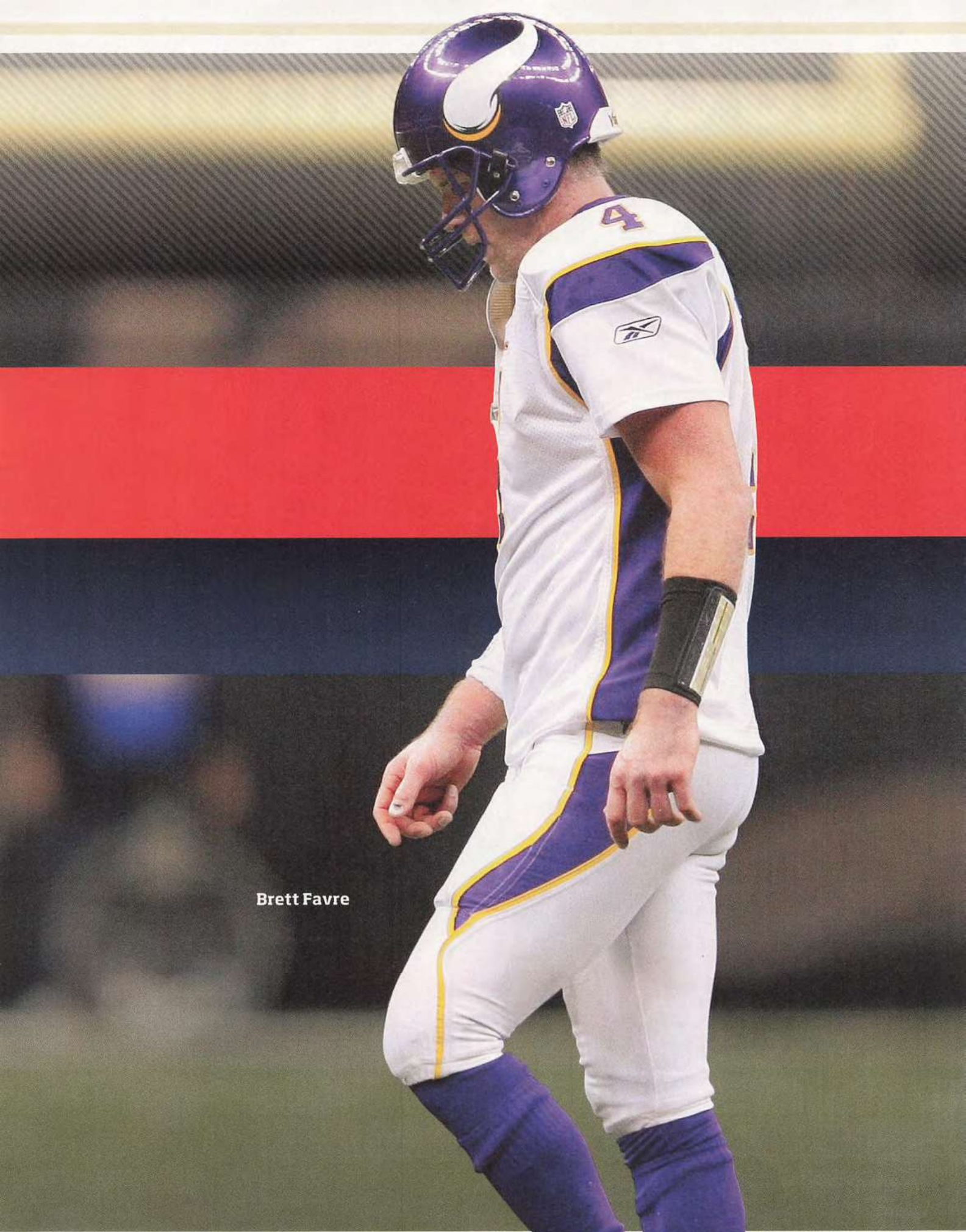


Brett Favre

Hard to say GOODBYE

As Brett Favre has recently attested, walking away from the NFL for good is tougher than one may think.

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

Hugh Douglas still laughs about the time he and best friend—and fellow NFL alumnus—Ike Reese played tennis against John McEnroe. It was just a charity event. Two versus one. Nothing at stake but a good time.

Except for Reese.

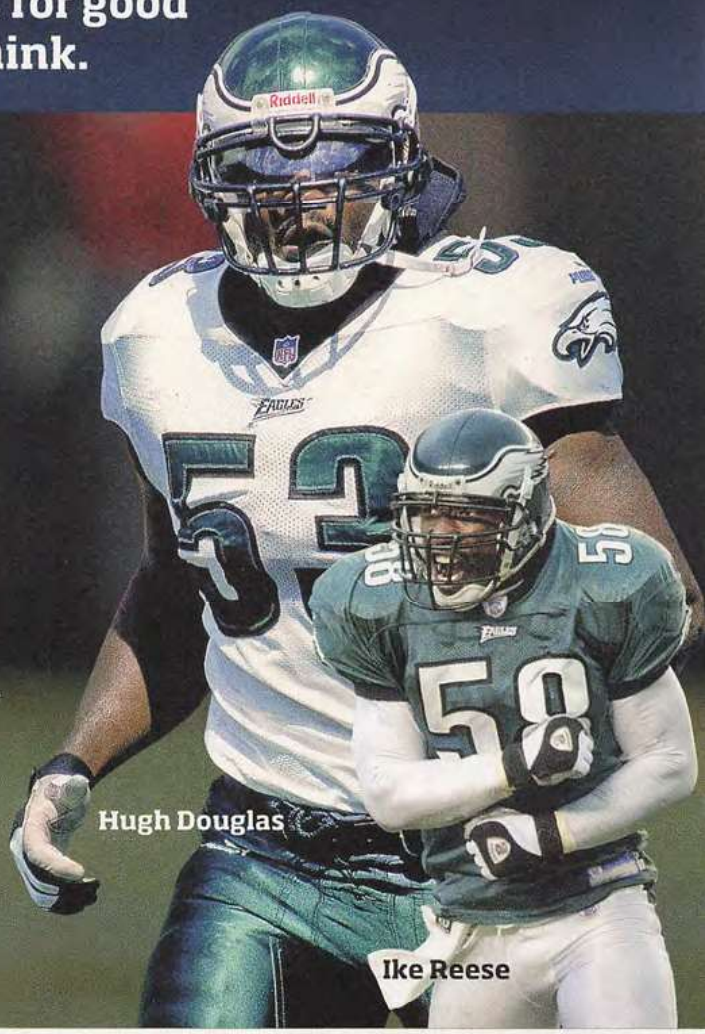
Douglas was in it for fun. But Reese wanted to win. The good friends had four combined Pro Bowl appearances on their résumés, along with 19 years of NFL experience and the athletic pedigree that had them still in good shape in their 30s. McEnroe, then 50, certainly had enough tennis savvy to deal with a pair of retired football players.

Reese, however, wasn't buying it.

"Before the match, Ike was game-planning," says Douglas, who had 80 sacks during his 10 NFL seasons. "He says, '(McEnroe) is going to do this. He's going to do that.' He says, '(McEnroe) is 50. We're still young.'"

Douglas was in no mood for strategy sessions. He wanted to smack the ball around, have some laughs and try to avoid embarrassment against a man who was once the world's best tennis player.

"Ike cussed me out," Douglas says. "He said, 'I can't believe I played football with you.'"



FAVRE: MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL / NEWSCOM; DOUGLAS: RICK STEWART /ALLSPORT / GETTY IMAGES; REESE: ICON / NEWSCOM

Reese's competitive fire still burned as brightly as it did during his nine years with the Eagles and Falcons. He wasn't out for a lark on the courts. He wanted to win and was angry that Douglas could no longer summon the drive he did as a player. It looked like an argument. Instead, it was a prelude to slaughter.

"Needless to say, we got on the court, and he kicked both our asses," says Douglas, clearly enjoying the memory. "He ran us all around that court. At the end, even Ike had to laugh. He knew."

Douglas has not lost his edge. Instead, he has made a successful transition from his time on the field to the next chapter in his life. For him, that meant stepping back and bidding farewell to the competitive monster that allowed him to be a top-caliber NFL player. Now a television reporter and radio host in Philadelphia, Douglas understands that letting go of the fury might be alien to some of his professional football brethren—like Reese—but it was necessary.

"I am done playing," Douglas says. "I'm not getting ready for nothing but hanging out with my kids, going to baseball practice and PTA meetings. It's a lot different. You've got to find other ways to channel that competitive drive."

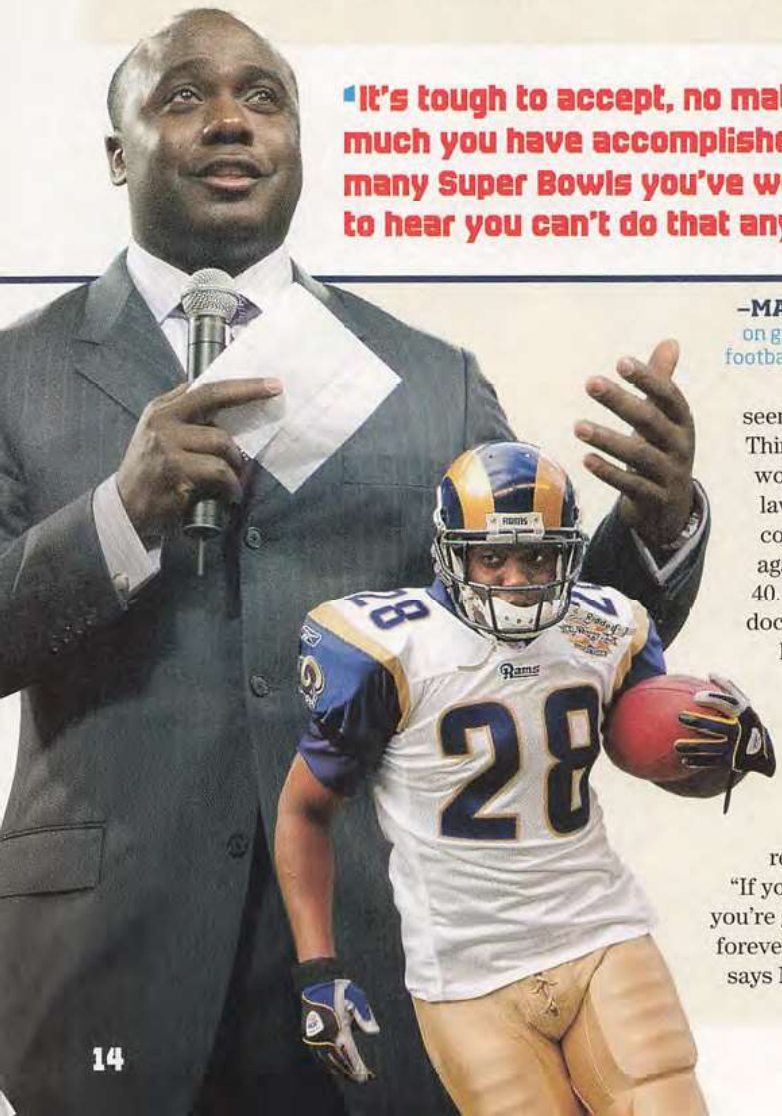
"I wanted to play, but I just didn't want to do everything else."

–RANDY CROSS

Douglas is one of the lucky ones who have made a smooth segue into life after football. Not that it was easy. Like most NFL players, the game had been his life since peewee days. To give it up in his early 30s was tough. But football is a game that's unforgiving, and belongs to the young. Some players are lucky enough to avoid injury and the challenges of the next generation and play for 10 to 15 years, but the end always comes—and it usually comes too early.

You wonder why Brett Favre can't seem to say goodbye? Think about what it would be like for a lawyer to be told he couldn't practice ever again—at age 35 or 40. Think about how a doctor would react if he were told to find something else to do at that age, even after eight years of school, an internship, fellowship and residency.

"If you have the notion you're going to play football forever, that's a problem," says Marshall Faulk, a seven-time Pro Bowler during his 13-year career with the Colts and Rams. "It's tough to accept, no matter how much you have accomplished or how many Super Bowls you've won. It's hard to hear you can't do that anymore."



"It's tough to accept, no matter how much you have accomplished or how many Super Bowls you've won. It's hard to hear you can't do that anymore."

–MARSHALL FAULK
on giving up the game of football after a long career

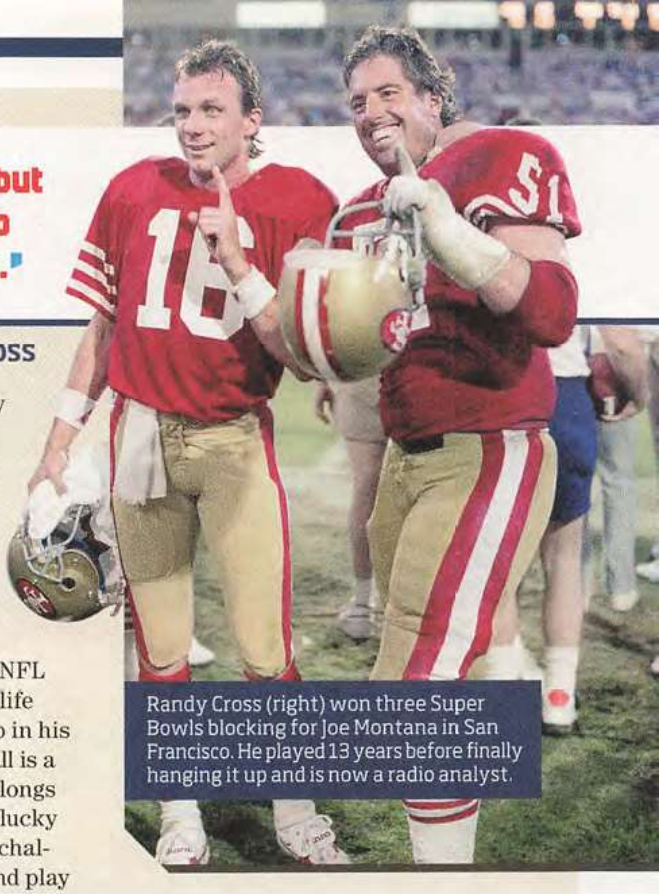
Faulk, now an analyst for NFL Network, never thought he was going to play football forever. That's why he paid attention to Tom Jackson and Ahmad Rashad, former NFL players who made the move to broadcasting shortly after retirement. He asked how they did it and tried to fill his offseasons with experiences that would help him transition to that life once his career was over.

Randy Cross did the same thing, although he didn't have an eye on a particular field.

"I always had an offseason job or business," says Cross, who won three Super Bowls during his 13-year career with the 49ers and then worked as an analyst for CBS and NBC before his current job with Sirius/XM radio.

Cross even sold medical malpractice insurance, just to get used to the "real world." If that wasn't enough, Bill Walsh did the rest. As Cross neared the end of his career, the then-San Francisco coach delivered a dose of reality.

"He would have 'The Talk' with you," Cross says. "He would say, 'You have about five or six years left in the league, and you'll probably only be here for about three.' That was pretty blunt and



Randy Cross (right) won three Super Bowls blocking for Joe Montana in San Francisco. He played 13 years before finally hanging it up and is now a radio analyst.

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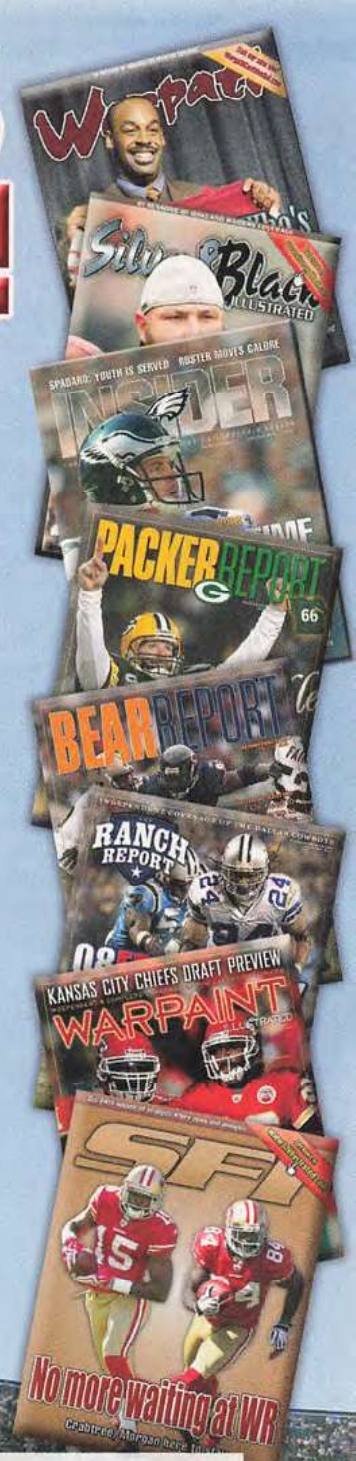

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pretty damn accurate. He would then ask what we planned to do when we were done in the NFL."

When it came time for Cross to leave the game, after the 1988 season, he was ready—sort of.

"I wanted to play, but I just didn't want to do everything else," he says.

That "everything else" refers to training camp, offseason conditioning and waking up Monday morning barely able to walk. Cross would miss the competition, but his body would thank him every morning that he wasn't playing football. It helped that he had seen some of the players from the 49ers' first Super Bowl title team—in 1982—struggling with life after retirement.

"It was really hard for them," he recalls. "Realistically, that spurred me on. I knew I had to have something after football."

Former Bengals and Jets quarterback Boomer Esiason could have played two more years in the NFL. At least that's what Cincinnati offered him after the 1997 season. But an offer to sit in the "Monday Night Football" booth was more enticing and, believe it or not, more lucrative. At the time, he was one of the lucky ones who had a landing spot after the NFL.

"In the '80s and early to mid-'90s, players had nowhere to go after football," he says.

Esiason credits the NFL and the NFL Players Association for creating broadcasting camps and internships to allow players to learn some skills during the offseason that will serve them following retirement. That softens the blow, but it doesn't eliminate it.

That's why just about any former player can identify with Favre, who is now in his third offseason of should-I-stay-or-should-I-go behavior. Some media members rip him for his indecisiveness, but you won't hear too much of that from the NFL crowd.

"If the guy can go out there and get it done, and the team feels a 40-year-old guy can lead the team, so be it," Faulk says. "Brett should play until his arm falls off. I have no qualms with anything he's done."

Esiason adds that it's a lot easier to put up with training camp and 16 games and getting beaten to a pulp by the Saints in a playoff game when you're making $15 million a year.

Douglas, who, now as a member of the media, jokes that he will "kill" Favre on TV and the radio airwaves for his indecision, is jealous the quarterback can keep going the way he has.

"He's 40 years old, and he's doing what he loves," Douglas says. "I'm proud of him, because he can still play at that level. I kind of envy him. He's like a kid playing in his backyard.

"If he can still command a team like he did last year, he should go do it. There's not a player who played in this league who doesn't wish he could go in a time machine or find the fountain of youth and go back to playing."

And not just tennis.

He's 40 years old, and he's doing what he loves. I'm proud of him, because he can still play at that level. I kind of envy him. He's like a kid playing in his backyard.
–HUGH DOUGLAS
on Brett Favre

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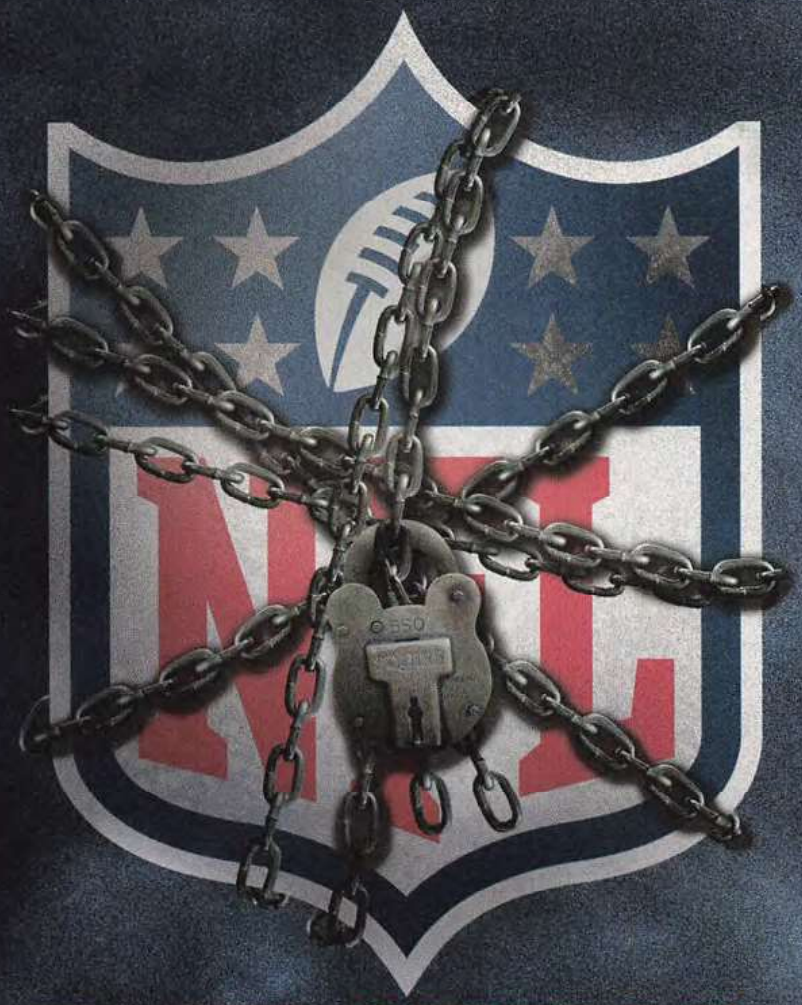
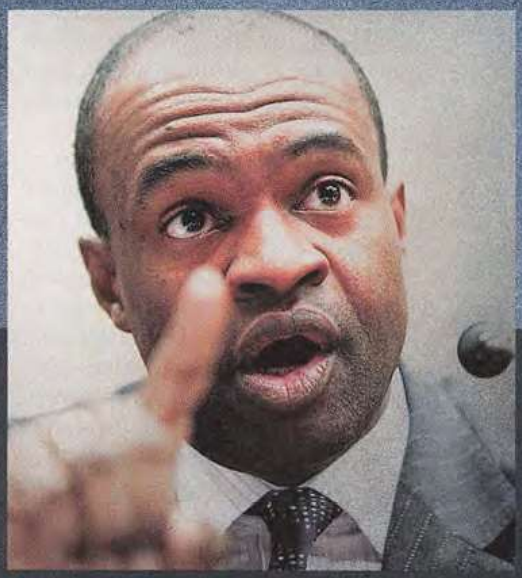


THE NFL'S BREWING STORM

AS THE COUNTRY'S MOST POPULAR SPORT IS SET TO BEGIN ANOTHER SEASON, A POTENTIAL LOCKOUT IN 2011 COULD BE DAMAGING ON MANY LEVELS

BY PETE WILLIAMS



'On a scale of one to 10, it's a 14'

—NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith on the potential of a 2011 NFL lockout

It speaks volumes about the intensity of the dispute between the NFL and its Players Association that they are rattling sabers to possibly shut down the most prosperous U.S. sports league in the midst of a major recession.

So when the question was posed at a press conference during Super Bowl week (by Chad Ochocinco, no less) about the potential of a 2011 NFL lockout, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith didn't mince his words.

"On a scale of one to 10," Smith said, "it's a 14."

Unlike the other three major sports leagues, the NFL has avoided labor strife since 1987, when the issues that produced a strike and use of replacement players for three weeks led to litigation and an early 1990s Collective Bargaining Agreement that gave players legitimate free agency for the first time.

That agreement was then extended several times, in no small part because of a clause that allowed for a final year in which the salary cap disappears. Faced with that uncertainty, the parties would reach CBA extensions well ahead of time.

The extension that was agreed upon in 2006 allowed NFL owners to opt out of the agreement two years early, and in 2008 they voted unanimously to do just that. The uncapped year was no longer the bogeyman some owners had feared, and the thought was there was still plenty of time to craft a settlement.

The death of NFLPA executive director Gene Upshaw in August 2008 and the search for his successor stalled the process, though. And it was Upshaw who vowed the salary cap would never return once an uncapped season is played.

And when no agreement was reached by March 5, that set the uncapped year into play, allowing for no minimum or maximum salaries for players and teams in 2010.

It was long thought that players would see a huge windfall in an uncapped year, with owners such as Washington's Daniel Snyder and Dallas' Jerry Jones unable to contain their spending. However, save for a handful of megadeals such as the one Julius Peppers got from the Bears, it has been quite the opposite during this offseason's free-agency period.

Kevin Mawae, NFLPA president

If anything, the owners have shown unusual restraint. And since the rules of an uncapped year require players to have six years of service instead of four to become unrestricted free agents, NFL stars such as San Diego's Shawne Merriman and Miami's Ronnie Brown are now forced to wait for their free-agent riches, further limiting the market.

And if a new agreement can't be reached by March 2011, it could result in the sport's first lockout in almost 25 years. (There still will be an NFL draft held no matter what happens, but the date is currently uncertain).

At stake, as in any sports labor dispute, is how to distribute a multibillion-dollar pie. Under the extension of the labor deal approved in 2006, players would receive an average of 59.5 percent of league revenues under the cap.

That amount, negotiated by Upshaw and former commissioner Paul Tagliabue, was deemed too generous by NFL owners, prompting them to opt out of the '06 CBA early.

Smith and Kevin Mawae, the veteran NFL center who also serves as the president of the NFLPA, say the

TOP TO BOTTOM: ICON SMI / NEWSCOM; MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE

owners have asked the players to take a pay cut that would reduce the percentage of league revenues under the cap going to the players from 59.5 percent to 41 percent.

Jeff Pash, the NFL's chief labor negotiator, stresses that the league's proposal would not result in the players making less money. The owners do not want to reduce the percentage of revenues going to the players, Pash says, but rather the size of the revenue pool that determines the salary cap.

According to Smith, the owners receive a $1 billion credit under the salary cap system toward operating costs and have proposed an additional $1 billion credit in the next agreement. Those credits, the owners argue, would go toward increasing the sport's revenues, which ultimately create a bigger pie.

"If we can create the right economic system, we can grow the game," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said at the owners meetings in late March. "If we can encourage the investment and the innovation, all the opportunities continue to expand. By doing that you grow the pie, you grow the pool, and there is more to share and everyone benefits from that."

Smith, who, like Upshaw did in the past, contends it would be impossible to return to a salary cap system once a season is played without one. He adds the union is frustrated by the owners' unwillingness to share only the numbers of team revenues under the current system, rather than complete financial information.

Speaking at the Super Bowl, Smith compared the owners' claims of losing money while not fully opening their books to someone buying stock in a company with limited information.

"What (is) your rate of returns? 'That's none of your business,'" Smith said. "My guess is no one in this room would make that investment. You know what? Neither would I."

Goodell points out that such transparency doesn't always produce agreements, as was the case in prior lockouts of the NHL and NBA.

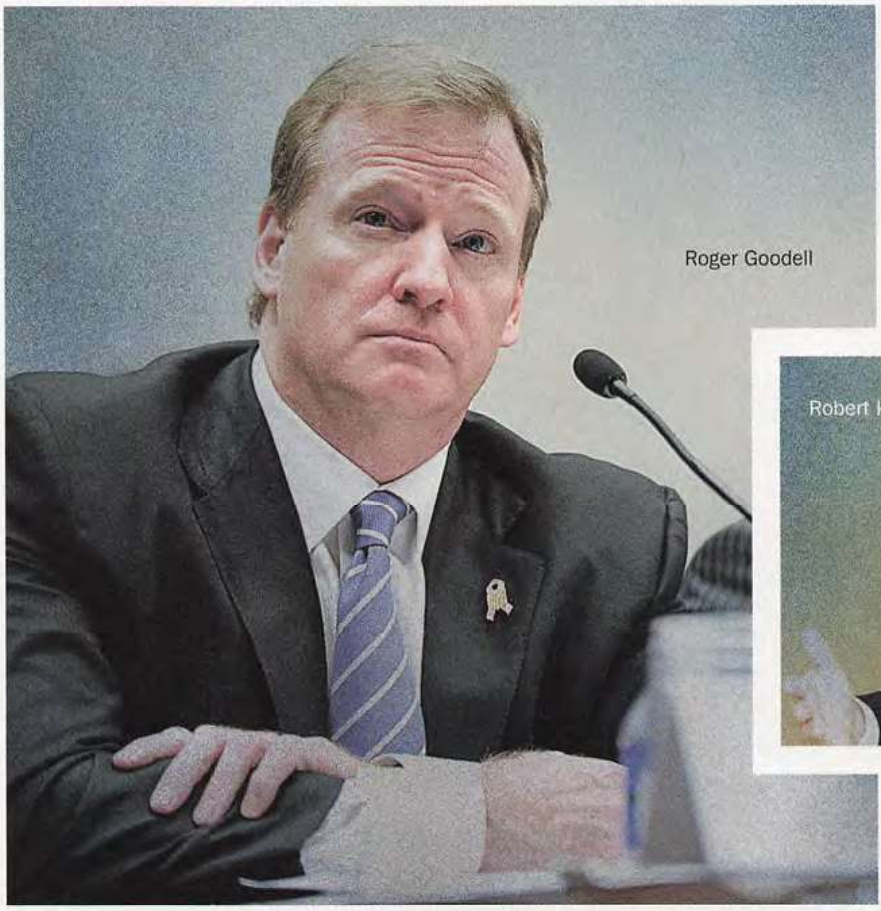
"What is important is for (the players) to understand, and we have shared with them the basic economic data isn't working," Goodell says. "... The costs have risen dramatically. Not only in player costs but also outside of that and that the economics really aren't working. And I think we've been very open with them."

And it seems both sides have dug in for a long fight.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, speaking at the owners meetings in Orlando said, "I don't know that I've ever seen us so united."

'What is important is for (the players) to understand, and we have shared with them the basic economic data isn't working.'

—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell



Roger Goodell

Robert Kraft

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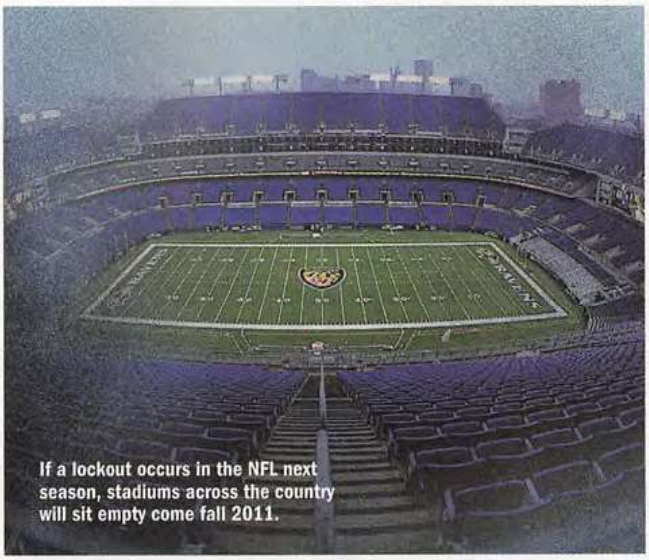
This all comes at a time when the stakes have never been higher. The NHL has yet to recover from the lockout that wiped out the entire 2004-05 season. And before a strike prompted the cancellation of the 1994 World Series, Major League Baseball was considered as popular as the NFL, a claim few would make today.

Goodell told owners in March the league could generate $25 billion in annual revenue by 2027. That would require adding roughly $1 billion annually until then, an ambitious timetable predicated on international growth and the development of more technology-based revenue streams. However, such bright prospects would dim with a labor shutdown.

Mawae, currently a free agent, says he continues to believe a deal will be reached, even if the sides "are probably about 80 yards away from each other."

"There has to be give and take on both sides," he says. "It would be a shame for us not to have this game in 2011 because we can't find common ground."



If a lockout occurs in the NFL next season, stadiums across the country will sit empty come fall 2011.

LOOKING BACK ...

The last time the NFL shut down, players went on strike and owners fielded teams of replacement players for three weeks. The 1987 work stoppage solved little initially, but ultimately inspired a Collective Bargaining Agreement that has produced the longest stretch of labor peace among the four major U.S. sports.

When the players went on strike in 1982, the NFL shut down for eight weeks. At that time, the idea was floated to use replacement players. That way, the networks would have football to air and the players might lose leverage if some crossed picket lines.

By 1987, hard-line owners such as Dallas' Tex Schramm and Tampa Bay's Hugh Culverhouse were pushing for replacements, vowing to continue the games with any players available. After the "Monday Night Football" game between the Jets and Patriots on Sept. 21, the NFL Players Association called for a strike. Following a week without football, the NFL staged games in the fourth week of the season with replacement players, labeled by some as "scabs."

Most had been cut during training camp or had previous USFL or college experience. A few were the type of weekend warriors portrayed in "The Replacements," the 2000 movie starring Keanu Reeves that was loosely based on the Washington Redskins replacement team that went 3-0.

As with all labor disputes, the 1987 showdown was over revenue sharing. The owners wanted to ensure cost containment, and that meant not allowing free agency, which had sent salaries soaring in Major League Baseball since its implementation more than a decade earlier. The NFL effectively barred free agency by requiring stiff compensation to teams losing players.

The replacement-player ploy worked for the owners, as some prominent stars began to cross picket lines, returning to work without an agreement. By Oct. 15, the players voted to go back to work.

The players were more successful in court, with litigation involving Freeman McNeil and Reggie White helping the NFLPA regain some of the leverage it lost in the strike and pushing both sides back to the bargaining table. There, in 1993, the owners and players crafted an agreement that gave players unrestricted free agency after four years in the league. The players obtained a significant chunk of gross revenue, and a clause in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement encouraged both sides to extend the contract before it expired.

Though it's within the realm of possibility that Sean Payton, who was a replacement quarterback for the Chicago Bears in 1987, could coach a squad of replacement Saints in 2011, the fact is that it's unlikely. NFL owners, now more than ever, are protective of their brand and will think twice before damaging it with replacement players.

—Pete Williams

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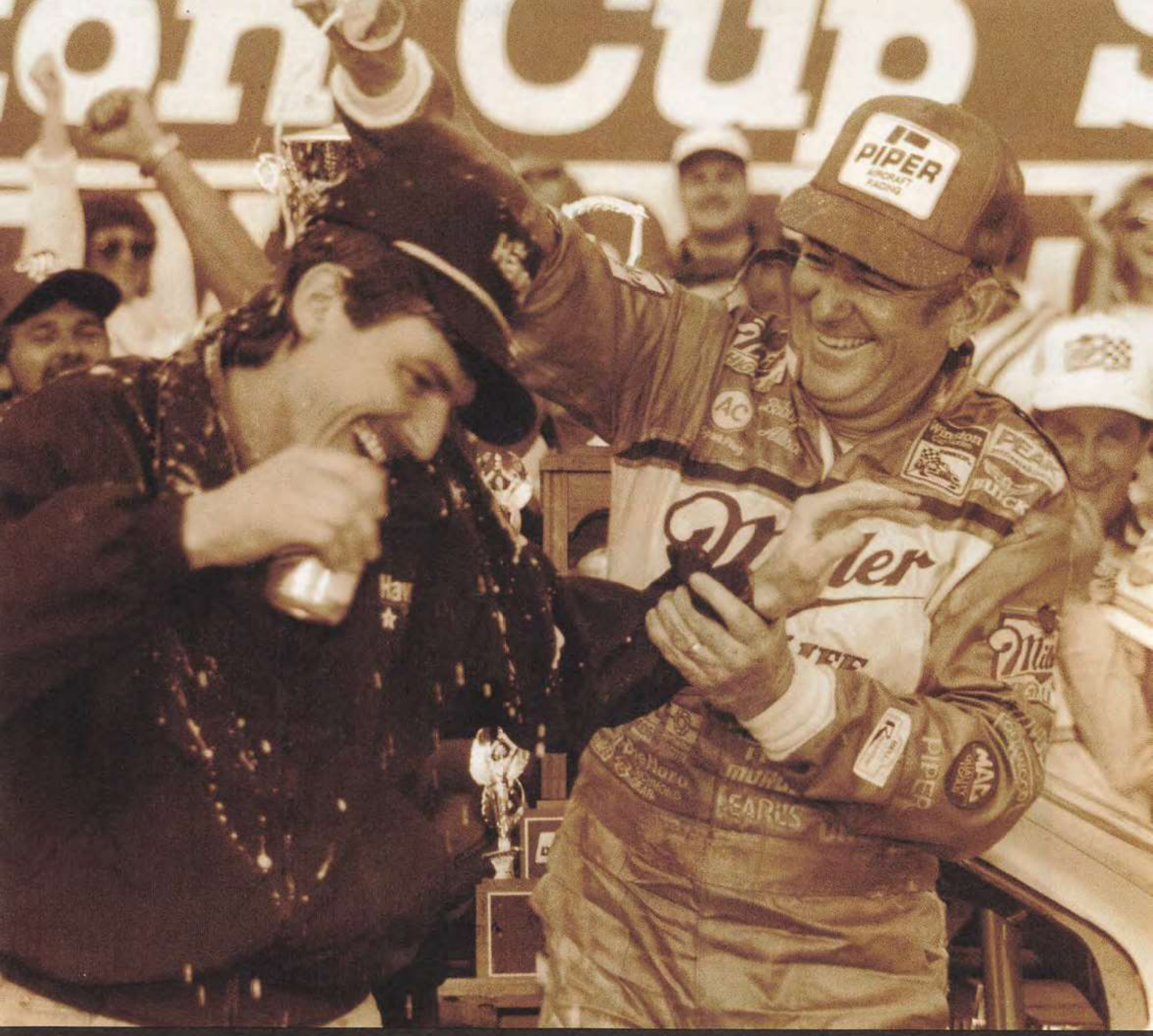

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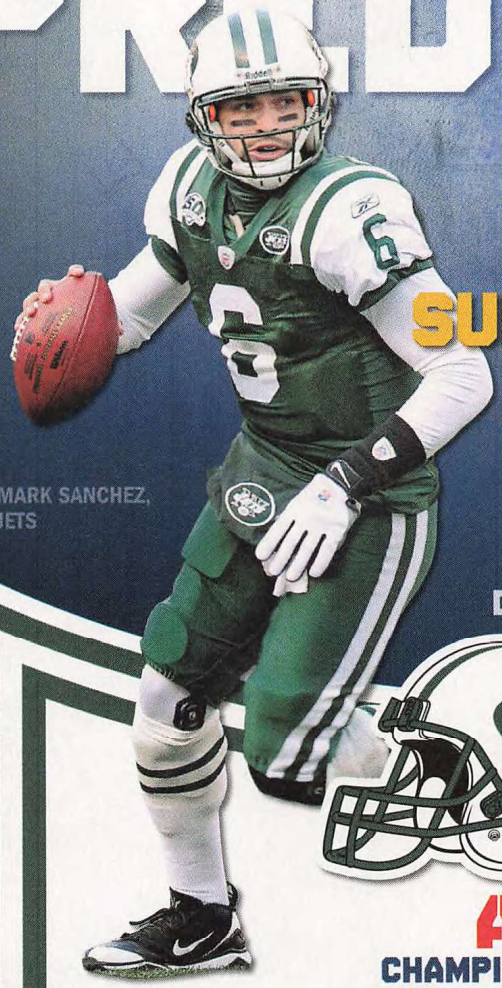
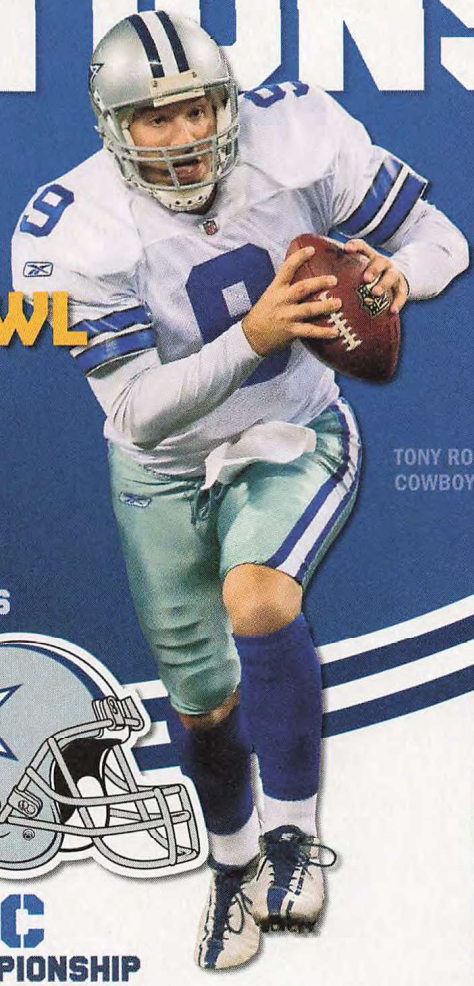


MARK SANCHEZ, JETS



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AFC EAST

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2	NEW ENGLAND*	PG. 34
3	MIAMI	PG. 40
4	BUFFALO	PG. 46

AFC SOUTH

1	INDIANAPOLIS	PG. 76
2	TENNESSEE*	PG. 82
3	HOUSTON	PG. 88
4	JACKSONVILLE	PG. 94

AFC NORTH

1	BALTIMORE	PG. 52
2	PITTSBURGH	PG. 58
3	CINCINNATI	PG. 64
4	CLEVELAND	PG. 70

AFC WEST

1	SAN DIEGO	PG. 100
2	KANSAS CITY	PG. 106
3	OAKLAND	PG. 112
4	DENVER	PG.118

*INDICATES WILD CARD

NFC EAST

1	DALLAS	PG. 126
2	N.Y. GIANTS	PG. 132
3	PHILADELPHIA	PG. 138
4	WASHINGTON	PG. 144

NFC SOUTH

1	ATLANTA	PG. 174
2	NEW ORLEANS*	PG. 180
3	CAROLINA	PG. 186
4	TAMPA BAY	PG. 192

NFC NORTH

1	MINNESOTA	PG. 150
2	GREEN BAY*	PG. 156
3	CHICAGO	PG. 162
4	DETROIT	PG. 168

NFC WEST

1	SAN FRANCISCO	PG. 198
2	ARIZONA	PG. 204
3	ST. LOUIS	PG. 210
4	SEATTLE	PG. 216

*INDICATES WILD CARD

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Las Vegas Sun

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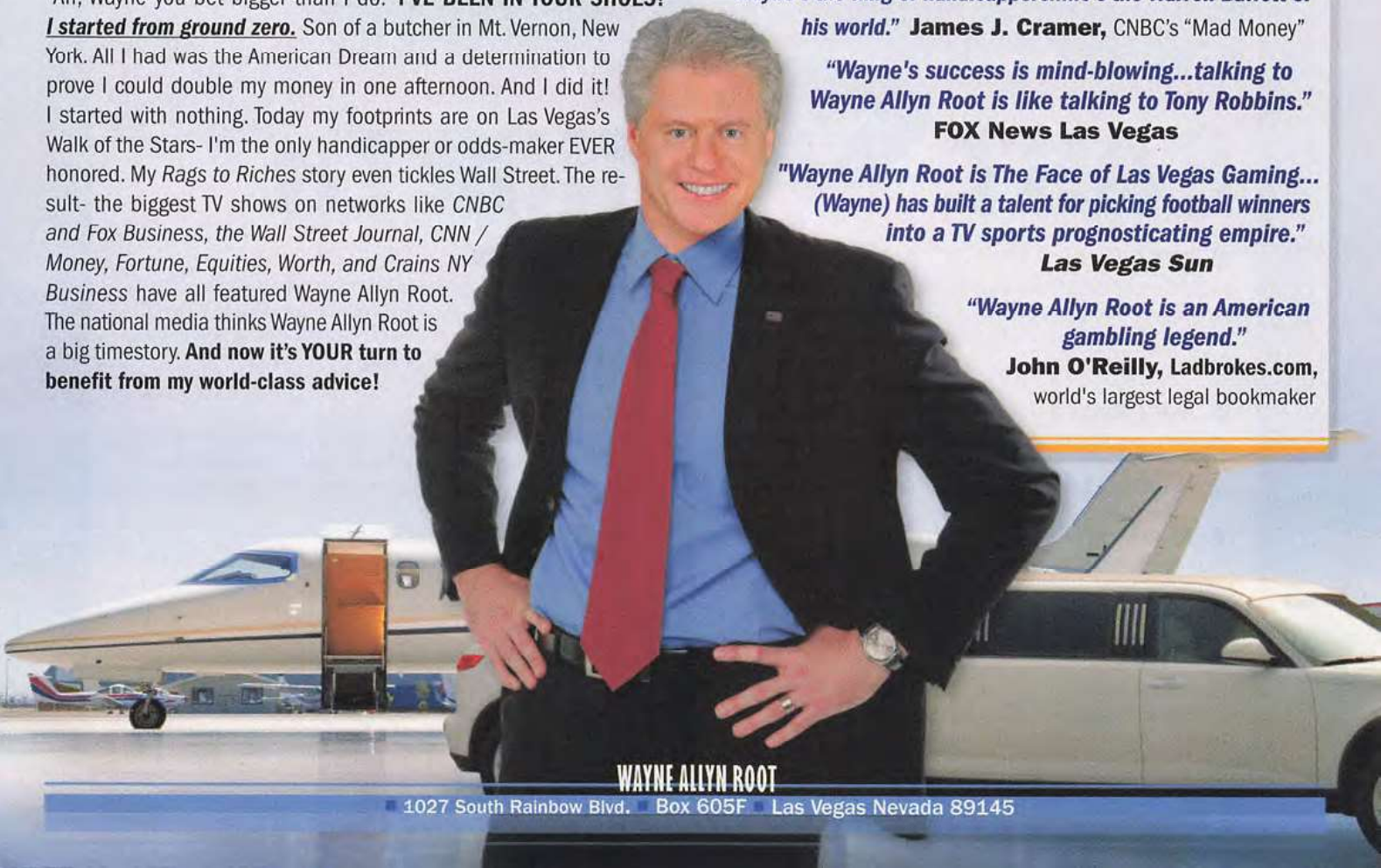


WAYNE ALLYN ROOT

1027 South Rainbow Blvd. ■ Box 605F ■ Las Vegas Nevada 89145

AFC PREDICTIONS

MARK SANCHEZ

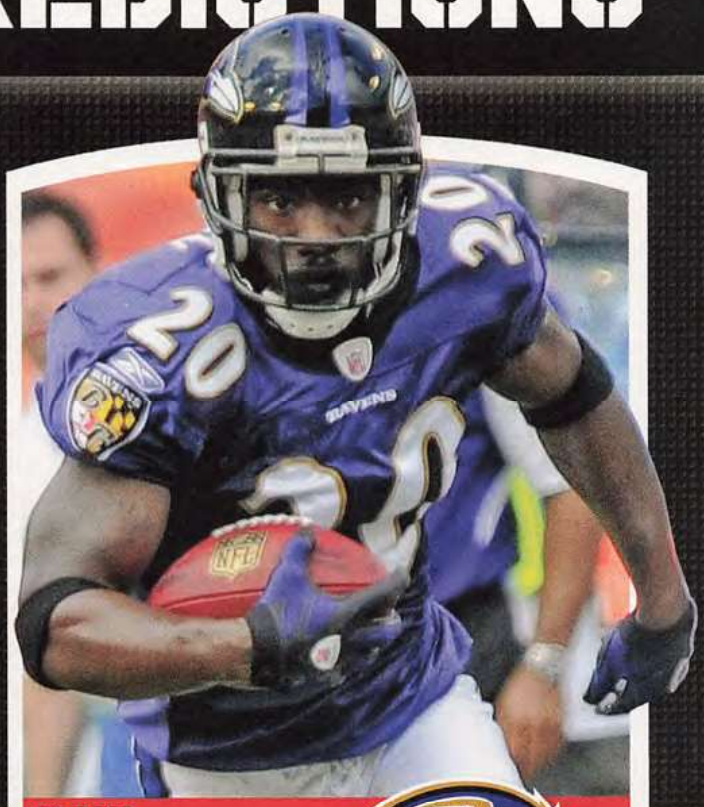
EAST

1 JETS 13-3
Their old-school combination—a prolific running game and an elite defense—already got them to the brink of the Super Bowl. Coach Rex Ryan and QB Mark Sanchez will both take big leaps in Year 2, helped by several key newcomers.

2 PATRIOTS 10-6
They have some rebuilding to do around their core stars, but as long as Tom Brady is at the helm of the offense and Bill Belichick watches over the defense, it's hard to deny them at least a wild-card berth.

3 DOLPHINS 7-9
Big pickups Brandon Marshall and Karlos Dansby will lead to big plays, but QB Chad Henne might be a year away from a breakout season. Although they'll be tougher, it's not yet the Dolphins' time in the division.

4 BILLS 3-13
The three teams ahead of them have all upgraded their personnel, while the Bills are again overhauling their roster, including a switch to the 3-4 defense. It's going to be a transition year.



ED REED

NORTH

1 RAVENS 11-5
Losing several close games and battling secondary woes held them back last season. Now that Joe Flacco is armed with a new target, Anquan Boldin, the Ravens' offense should do more to take pressure off Ray Lewis and the aging defense.

2 STEELERS 10-6
Even without the services of Ben Roethlisberger, they have the all-around talent, especially defensively, to stay afloat early in the playoff chase. The keys are a consistent running game and a healthy Troy Polamalu.

3 BENGALS 8-8
Their lack of offensive pop caught up with them in the playoffs, and the rushing yards won't come as easy against a tougher schedule. A bit of a slide is enough to fall out of the AFC playoffs.

4 BROWNS 2-14
They've reshuffled the deck at quarterback and running back and are still trying to find the right combination of players for the 3-4 defense. Team president Mike Holmgren will see little progress in his first year.

JOHN SIU / NEWSCOM (2)

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

JETS OVER CHARGERS

WILD-CARD GAMES

COLTS OVER PATRIOTS

RAVENS OVER TITANS

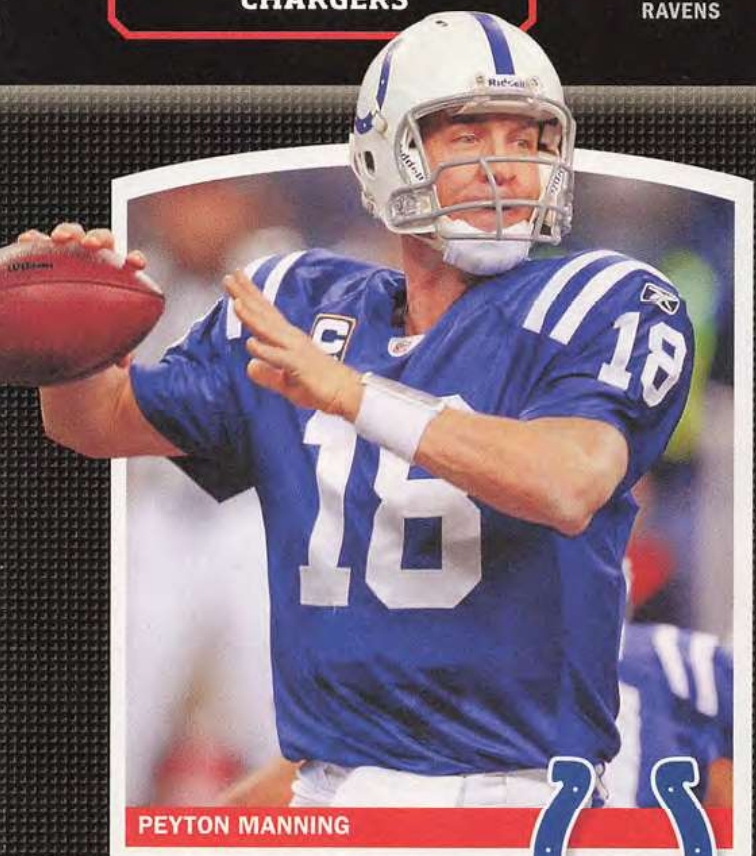
DIVISIONAL GAMES

JETS OVER RAVENS

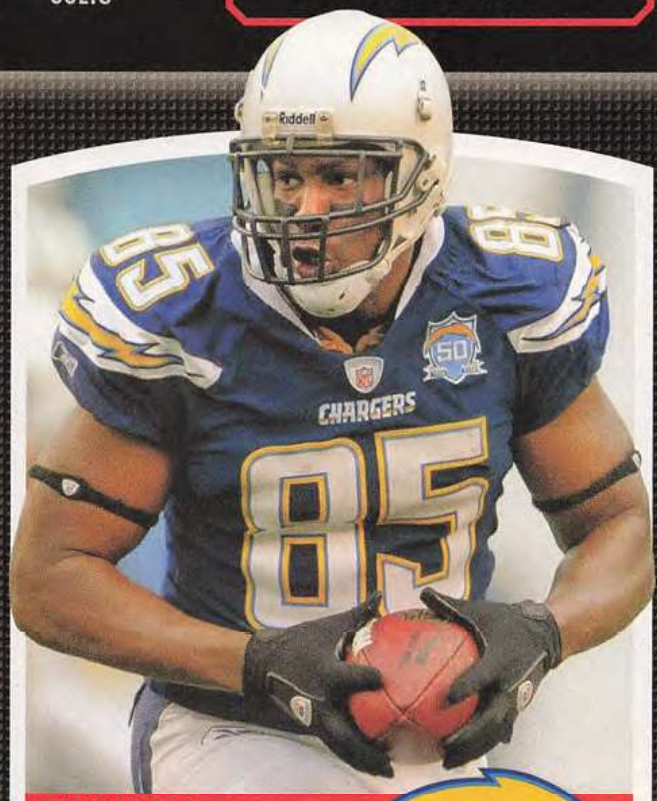
CHARGERS OVER COLTS

SUPER BOWL 45

JETS OVER COWBOYS



PEYTON MANNING



ANTONIO GATES

SOUTH

1 COLTS 12-4

Ho-hum: Peyton Manning will once again lead an efficient, sometimes explosive, offense and the defense will come through with speed, timely sacks and takeaways. Age is sneaking up on the Colts, but they're still the AFC South team to beat.

2 TITANS 11-5

The Titans hope to carry over their fantastic stretch run last year into this season and, if they can avoid another miserable start, Vince Young and Chris Johnson will push them into the playoffs.

3 TEXANS 7-9

The franchise is desperately seeking its first playoff berth, but a brutal schedule will prevent it. The front seven and running game must improve.

4 JAGUARS 5-11

Although they can be competitive in this tough division, the Jaguars don't stand out in any one area. Indianapolis and Houston are superior on offense, and Tennessee is better at executing the run-oriented, defensive-minded philosophy.

WEST

1 CHARGERS 12-4

Once we get used to seeing them without LaDainian Tomlinson, it will be easy to see their super-charged, pass-first attack. They own the regular season; now the pressure is on Norv Turner to deliver in the playoffs.

2 CHIEFS 9-7

As they have slowly become the "Patriots West"—the only thing missing is Bill Belichick, it seems—they're doing all the right things. Charlie Weis will get the most out of their offense to help them to a surprise record.

3 RAIDERS 5-11

When they work hard and play tough, the Raiders can beat some good teams. The only problem is being able to consistently perform at that level. Adding QB Jason Campbell will help.

4 BRONCOS 4-12

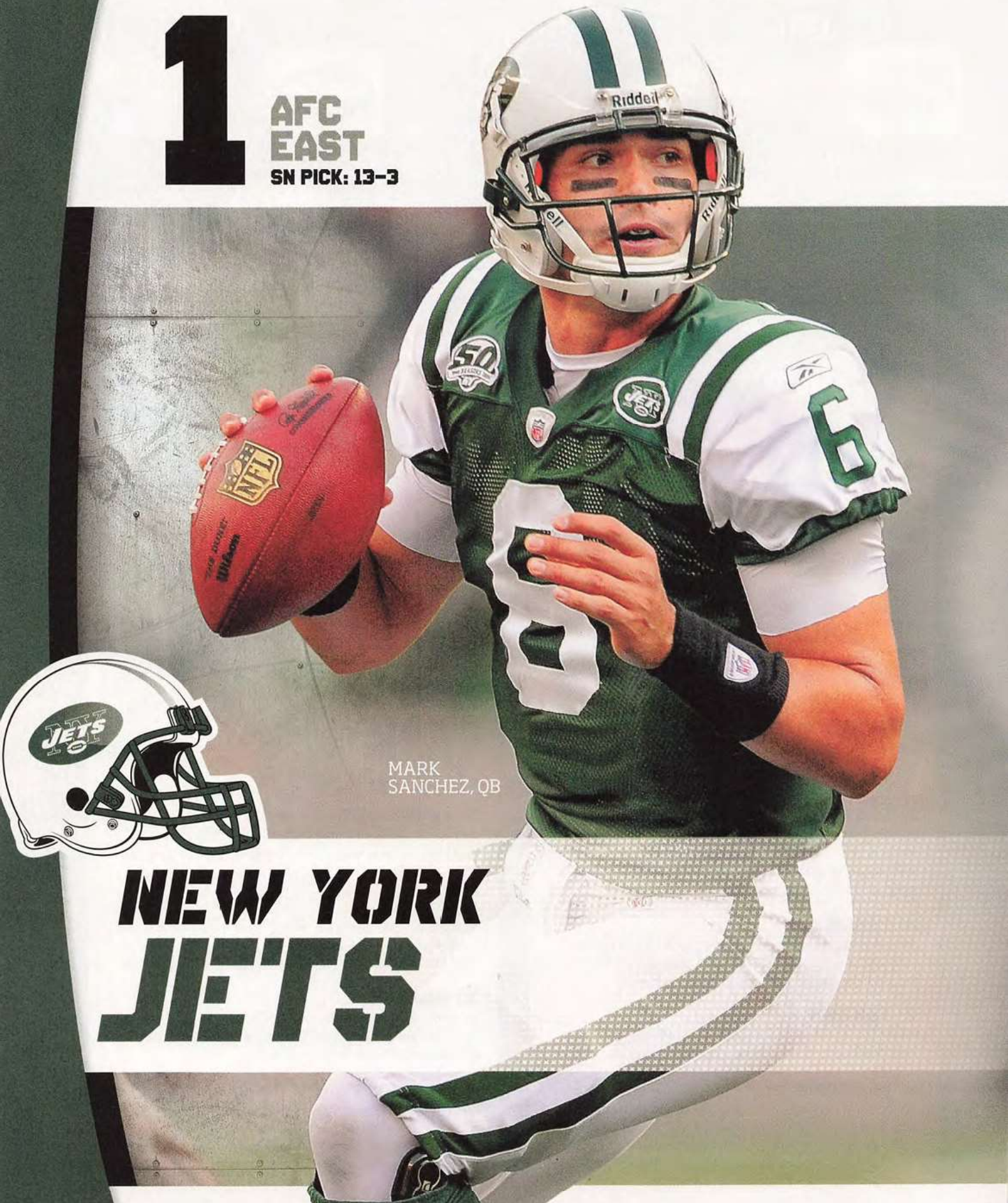
Now that he's won the battles with Brandon Marshall and Jay Cutler, Josh McDaniels must start proving his way is the best way, or risk losing more than just a lot of games after being involved in the team trading both great talents.

(L TO R): BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE; IMAGE OF SPORT / NEWSCOM

1

AFC EAST

SN PICK: 13-3



MARK SANCHEZ, QB

NEW YORK JETS

Jets have makeup of 'Super' team, but they must execute

By J.P. Pelzman, *Bergen (N.J.) Record*

The locker room of the Jets' two-year-old Florham Park complex measures a whopping 5,500 square feet. It's a good thing, because the team has taken on some extra baggage in recent months.

During the offseason, the Jets traded for two players who had become headaches on their previous teams in cornerback Antonio Cromartie (San Diego) and wide receiver Santonio Holmes (Pittsburgh). The Jets are convinced both will fit in nicely, but the chemistry may not be as good in 2010 as it was in '09, when the Jets surged in January and came within 30 minutes of going to the Super Bowl. The talented Jets are in a win-now mode in the second year of coach Rex Ryan's tenure, but it's up to him to fit the pieces together.

OFFENSE

The Jets use a fullback on half of their plays along with numerous formations and a lot of motion. Coordinator Brian Schottenheimer re-installed all of those bells and whistles last season after junking them in 2008 because Brett Favre wasn't comfortable.

Ideally, Ryan prefers a run-oriented offense, calling it his "ground-and-pound" philosophy. But he has promised to loosen the reins a bit this season, which makes sense considering the offensive weapons the Jets possess.

Quarterbacks With Mark Sanchez struggling last November, Ryan instituted a variation of the old kids' game "Red Light, Green Light," with color-coded reminders for Sanchez as to when he needed to play it safe and when he could open things up. The color should be "green" more often in 2010, as Sanchez showed he could handle the pressure of the playoffs, becoming only the fourth rookie quarterback to lead his team to a conference final.

Sanchez can make all the throws and is good at play-action, but he must check down more often and conquer his tendency to force the ball into tight spots. He also has the ability to make plays and buy time with his feet when the pocket collapses, but the Jets want him to slide more often instead of opening himself up to big hits in space.

All of the reserves, including primary backup Kellen Clemens, are relatively young. So Sanchez doesn't have the benefit of a longtime NFL signal-caller as his mentor. Keeping him upright is of prime importance. **GRADE: B-**

Running backs After watching Curtis Martin go from NFL rushing champion in 2004 to a career-ending injury in 2005, the Jets vowed never again to hold on to a running back too long. But did they jettison Thomas Jones a year too soon? The release of Jones means that second-year pro Shonn Greene will be the featured back.

Greene was a revelation during the playoffs, rushing for more than 100 yards against both Cincinnati and San Diego with a touchdown in each game. He has terrific balance, the ability to gain yards after contact and a nice burst in the open field. But Greene had no receptions last season, plus he showed signs of being injury-prone. The Jets were held scoreless in the second half of the AFC title contest at Indianapolis after Greene left the game with a rib injury.

The Jets believe LaDainian Tomlinson isn't done, which is why they signed him to a two-year contract. The former Charger and likely Hall of Famer had his worst pro season in 2009, averaging a scant 3.3 yards a carry. But both Tomlinson and the Jets say he still has the ability to make people miss, and that he'll be better in the Jets' run-friendly system. We'll see.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

ERIC SMITH — **S**

Smith was trade bait in coach Rex Ryan's mind until he had an outstanding spring last year. He built upon that during the season, and even supplanted Kerry Rhodes in the starting lineup late in the year. With Rhodes now gone, the fifth-year pro has an excellent chance to win a starting job.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Mark Sanchez Kellen Clemens
FB	Tony Richardson John Conner
RB	Shonn Greene LaDainian Tomlinson
LT	D'Brickashaw Ferguson Wayne Hunter
LG	Matt Slauson Vladimir Ducasse
C	Nick Mangold Robert Turner
RG	Brandon Moore Matt Slauson
RT	Damien Woody Wayne Hunter
TE	Dustin Keller Ben Hartsock
WR	Braylon Edwards Brad Smith
WR	Santonio Holmes Jerricho Cotchery
	DEFENSE
DE	Mike DeVito Vernon Gholston
NT	Kris Jenkins Sione Pouha
DE	Shaun Ellis Mike DeVito
OLB	Bryan Thomas Jason Taylor
ILB	David Harris Lance Laury
ILB	Bart Scott Jamaal Westerman
OLB	Calvin Pace Jason Taylor
LCB	Darrelle Revis Dwight Lowery
SS	Jim Leonhard James Ihedigbo
FS	Eric Smith Brodney Pool
RCB	Antonio Cromartie Kyle Wilson
	SPECIALISTS
K	Nick Folk
P	Steve Weatherford
KR	Brad Smith
PR	Kyle Wilson
LS	Tanner Purdum

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 9-7 HOME: 4-4

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OPPOSITE: ICON / NEWSCOM

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Jets)

"To me, the Jets are the team to watch. That team rallies around one guy (and) that one guy is (coach) Rex Ryan. It's hard not to like the guy. He will go down as one of the greatest coaches ever, if he chooses to stay around long enough. Their offseason moves have been absolutely great. Adding (receiver) Santonio Holmes and (cornerback) Antonio Cromartie were great moves for the Jets. They add big-play potential (and) game-changers on both sides of the ball. ...

"To me, their only weakness is at quarterback. They still have to be very patient and give (Mark Sanchez) time to mature. It's like (in) high school and college. Why do people think the hardest level of football is any different? In your junior and senior years, you will be at your best. Sanchez will be 10 times better in his third and fourth years than his rookie and sophomore (NFL) seasons."

Fourth-round pick Joe McKnight replaces the traded Leon Washington. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸▸ The most pressing problem among the wideouts may be in trying to keep everybody happy. Besides the steady Jerricho Cotchery, the Jets have two receivers in the final year of their respective contracts.

Braylon Edwards signed a one-year tender and Santonio Holmes, imported from Pittsburgh in April after the Steelers became fed up with his off-field antics, is in the final year of his rookie contract. So Edwards and Holmes won't lack for motivation.

Cotchery isn't flashy, but he can catch the ball over the middle and could be effective if moved into the slot. Edwards and Holmes both have more speed, although Edwards again had problems with dropped passes (6 last season). Holmes will begin the season on a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. When he returns, he figures to be adept at one of Schottenheimer's favorite plays, the bubble screen.

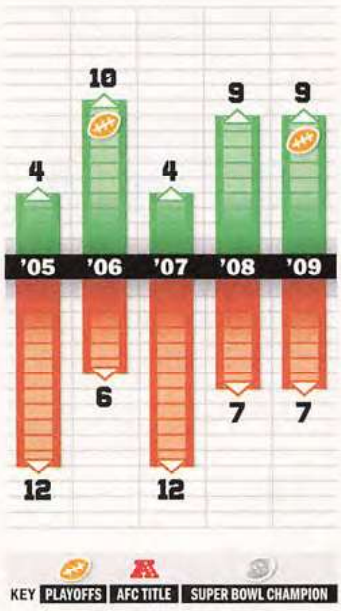
There's depth with versatile Brad Smith and Aundrae Allison, who impressed Ryan early before suffering a season-ending knee injury in the final preseason game.

Tight end Dustin Keller is a matchup nightmare who figures to see a lot of one-on-one coverage from linebackers with all these talented wideouts. Keller has developed a great rapport with Sanchez and had a touchdown catch in all three playoff games. Tight end Ben Hartsock blocked well down the stretch. **GRADE: A**

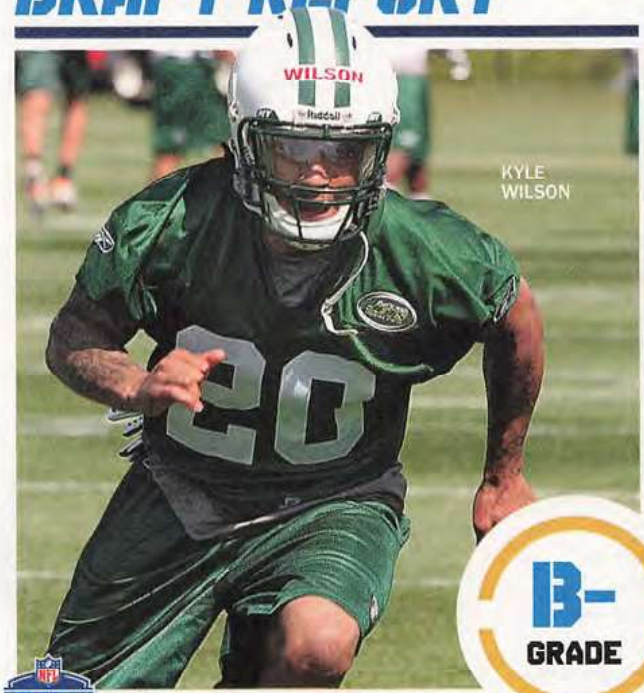
Offensive line ▸▸ To save a little money ($2.25 million), the Jets decided to break up a line that paved the way for the league's No. 1 rushing offense in 2009. They released nine-time Pro Bowl player Alan Faneca and will replace him with either second-year player Matt Slauson or second-round pick Vladimir Ducasse, who played tackle at Massachusetts. Yes, Faneca's ability to pass protect was on the decline, but he still was a top-flight run blocker, and the Jets likely won't get the same results with either of these two youngsters in the starting lineup.

Left tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson and center Nick Mangold made the Pro Bowl in 2009, and the Jets hope they can help bring along the new starter who will play in between them. The Jets like to run to their right, behind the tandem of guard Brandon

5-YEAR RECORD: 36–44



DRAFT REPORT



B-
GRADE

After trading for cornerback Antonio Cromartie, the Jets made a smart move by drafting **Kyle Wilson** in the first round. Not only does Wilson give the Jets a third cornerback who will handle slot duties as a rookie, but he's going to push Cromartie into shape by fighting for his roster spot.

In the second round, the Jets reached for **Vladimir Ducasse**, who may switch to guard for the Jets. He's not an elite athlete but does work hard. Running back **Joe McKnight** was a good value pick in the fourth round, as he is a playmaker who can get through the defensive line. **John Conner**, a fullback, always seems to hold on to the ball and has the talent to become a lead blocker. He could also be a good replacement for Tony Richardson in 2011.

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	29	Kyle Wilson	CB	5-10	194	Boise State
2	29	Vladimir Ducasse	OT	6-5	332	Massachusetts
4	14	Joe McKnight	RB	6-0	198	USC
5	8	John Conner	FB	5-11	246	Kentucky

BRIAN LOSNESS / US PRESSWIRE

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	24-7	at Houston Texans
09/20	W	16-9	New England Patriots
09/27	W	24-17	Tennessee Titans
10/04	L	10-24	at New Orleans Saints
10/12	L	27-31	at Miami Dolphins
10/18	L	13-16	Buffalo Bills
10/25	W	38-0	at Oakland Raiders
11/01	L	25-30	Miami Dolphins
11/15	L	22-24	Jacksonville Jaguars
11/22	L	14-31	at New England Patriots
11/29	W	17-6	Carolina Panthers
12/03	W	19-13	at Buffalo Bills
12/13	W	26-3	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
12/20	L	7-10	Atlanta Falcons
12/27	W	29-15	at Indianapolis Colts
01/03	W	37-0	Cincinnati Bengals

WON 9, LOST 7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jones	331	1402	4.2	71	14
Greene	108	540	5.0	33	2
Washington	72	331	4.6	33	0
B. Smith	18	207	11.5	57	1
Sanchez	36	106	2.9	14	3
Woodhead	15	64	4.3	16	0
Richardson	7	48	6.9	19	0
Weatherford	2	42	21.0	26	0
Cotchery	2	7	3.5	6	1
Keller	1	7	7.0	7	0
Clemens	12	1	0.1	6	0
Clowney	3	1	0.3	13	0
JETS	607	2756	4.5	71	21
OPPONENTS	420	1578	3.8	35	11

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Cotchery	57	821	14.4	53	3
Keller	45	522	11.6	40	2
Edwards	35	541	15.5	65	4
Washington	15	131	8.7	33	0
Clowney	14	191	13.6	53	1
Jones	10	58	5.8	28	0
Woodhead	8	87	10.9	24	0
B. Smith	7	63	9.0	19	0
Richardson	3	10	3.3	5	0
Wright	2	21	10.5	14	0
E. Smith	1	27	27.0	27	0
Hartsock	1	2	2.0	2	1
Mulligan	1	2	2.0	2	0
JETS	210	2380	11.3	65	12
OPPONENTS	259	2459	9.5	59	8

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sanchez	364	196	2444	12	20
Clemens	26	13	125	0	0
B. Smith	1	1	27	0	0
Edwards	1	0	0	0	0
Weatherford	1	0	0	0	1
JETS	393	210	2380	12	21
OPPONENTS	501	259	2459	8	17

SACKS JETS 32, OPPONENTS 30

Pace 8, Ellis 6.5, Harris 5.5, Leonhard 2.5, Ihedigbo 2, Strickland 2, Thomas 2, Douglas 1.5, Scott 1, Westerman 1

Moore and tackle Damien Woody. Backups Robert Turner and Wayne Hunter often lined up as extra tight ends when the Jets ran the ball in 2009. **GRADE: B+**

DEFENSE

Simply put, the Jets attack on defense. No team in the NFL blitzed more often in 2009, as Ryan and coordinator Mike Pettine believe in bringing pressure from all angles and from multiple positions on the defense. This system puts a lot of stress on the cornerbacks, who often find themselves on an island in the Jets' man-to-man schemes. The base scheme is a 3-4, but the Jets often use four-man fronts, particularly in passing situations.

Defensive line ▸▸ This unit has the potential to be even better than it was last season, considering it was without run-stuffer supreme Kris Jenkins after the sixth game of the regular season. Jenkins' rehab from a knee injury has gone well, and the Jets expect the nose tackle to return to his dominating form. Shaun Ellis is still a sack threat at defensive end, but he's coming off a broken hand that hampered him during the playoff loss to the Colts.

The Jets chose not to re-sign Marques Douglas, who was starting at the other end spot last season, which means backup Mike DeVito and former Dolphin Rodrique Wright are in contention for that job. DeVito, who made the team as an undrafted free agent in 2007, became a valuable member of the rotation last season with a knack for making big plays.

Sione Pouha did a fine job in place of Jenkins in the middle down the stretch last season and is hard to move out of the way. But Jenkins, Ellis and Pouha are all at least 30 years old, so this unit needs to start developing more youth. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸▸ The Jets may have as good a tandem at inside linebacker as any 3-4 team in the NFL. David Harris, who struggled through injuries in 2008, came into his own in '09 with a career-high 5.5 sacks. He is a fierce hitter who not only can rush the passer but is also able to stop the run, drop into coverage and make tackles and plays in space.

Baltimore import Bart Scott immediately became the vocal leader of the Jets on the field and in the locker room, and his actions back up his words. He is another intimidating tackler who has helped the Jets' defense become one of the most physical in the league.

Outside linebacker Calvin Pace led the Jets in sacks (8) despite missing four games because of suspension. He's a good pass rusher but not a dominant one. Bryan Thomas' sack totals have gone down, but he's good against the run and in coverage. Jason Taylor will be 36 by opening day, and the Jets are gambling that he still has something left in his pass-rushing tank.

Vernon Gholston, the No. 6 overall pick in 2008, has recorded no sacks in two seasons and time is running out for him to make an impact. To shake things up, Gholston is being moved

INSIDE THE HEADSET

REX RYAN

Ryan's game philosophy mirrors his mindset at times—let it all hang out. He has confidence in his defense and likes going for it on fourth down, although not necessarily on his own side of the field. Ryan prefers a conservative base offense but gives offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer the freedom to use plenty of gadget plays.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	321.0	20
RUSHING	172.3	1
PASSING	148.8	31
SCORING	348	17
PUNT RETURNS	9.1	13
KICK RETURNS	24.4	5
RED ZONE TD %	49.0	20
TOTAL DEFENSE	252.3	1
AGAINST RUSH	98.6	8
AGAINST PASS	153.7	1
POINTS ALLOWED	236	1
INTERCEPTIONS	17	13t
SACKS	32	18t
TURNOVER DIFF.	1	16t

JETS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Mark Gastineau** *(1981-88)* — **74.0**
2. **Shaun Ellis** *(2000-present)* — **68.0**
3. **John Abraham** *(2000-05)* — **53.5**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Baltimore
SEPT. 13 | 7:00
— SCORE

WEEK 2 New England
SEPT. 19 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 3 @ Miami
SEPT. 26 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 4 @ Buffalo
OCT. 3 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 5 Minnesota
OCT. 11 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 6 @ Denver
OCT. 17 | 4:05
— SCORE

>> WEEK 7 OPEN DATE

WEEK 8 Green Bay
OCT. 31 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 9 @ Detroit
NOV. 7 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 10 @ Cleveland
NOV. 14 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 11 Houston
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 12 Cincinnati
NOV. 25 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 13 @ New England
DEC. 6 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 14 Miami
DEC. 12 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 15 @ Pittsburgh
DEC. 19 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 16 @ Chicago
DEC. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 17 Buffalo
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

to defensive end, which he played at Ohio State. **GRADE: B+**

Secondary ▸▸ The Jets have arguably the best corner in the league and a player who has the potential to be one of the all-time greats in Darrelle Revis. The two-time Pro Bowler fits their defense perfectly. His ability to lock down the opponent's best receiver and remove him from the offense gives the Jets the opportunity to blitz more often, because they rarely have to double team the receiver to whom Revis is assigned. Revis is also physical in run support.

The team hopes Antonio Cromartie can do a similar job at the other corner spot, which has been a revolving door in recent seasons. Cromartie fell out of favor in San Diego because of his off-field indiscretions, but the Jets believe he can thrive in their man coverage schemes after struggling in the Chargers' zone the last two seasons.

Strong safety Jim Leonhard is heady, physical and tough (he played several games with a broken hand last season). Eric Smith

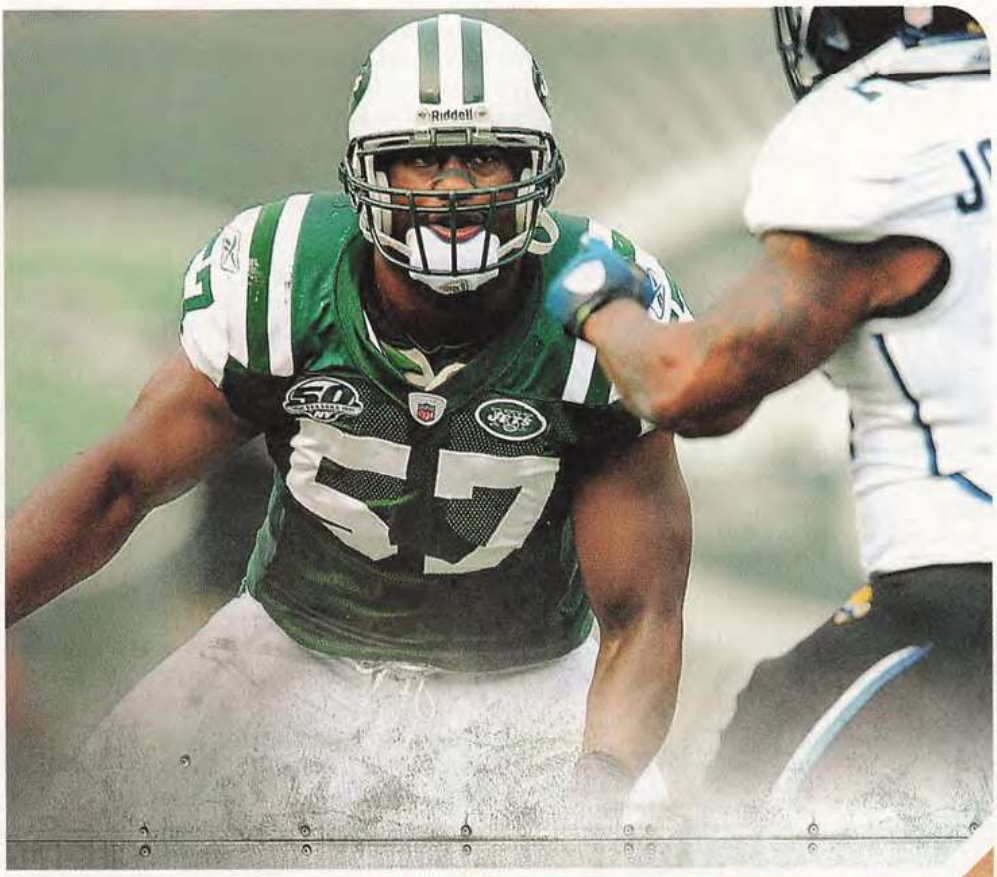
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

LB Jason Taylor *(FA/Dolphins)*, **LaDainian Tomlinson** *(FA/Chargers)*, **S Brodney Pool** *(FA/Browns)*, **K Nick Folk** *(FA/Cowboys)*, **CB Antonio Cromartie** *(trade/Chargers)*, **WR Santonio Holmes** *(trade/Steelers)*

SUBTRACTIONS

RB Leon Washington *(trade/Seahawks)*, **G Alan Faneca** *(FA/Cardinals)*, **RB Thomas Jones** *(FA/Chiefs)*, **DE Marques Douglas** *(FA)*, **S Kerry Rhodes** *(trade/Cardinals)*, **CB Justin Miller** *(FA/Cardinals)*, **WR Wallace Wright** *(FA/Panthers)*, **CB Lito Sheppard** *(FA/Vikings)*, **K Jay Feely** *(FA/Cardinals)*, **LB Larry Izzo** *(FA)*, **CB Donald Strickland** *(FA/Chargers)*



ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... BART SCOTT

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Bart demands respect. He has average size for a linebacker and at times can seem small in the NFL. But in this small frame, he is undeniably one of the best I've ever faced. He can hit as hard as hell. He can cover. He's a student of the game and he plays with emotion. That shows you that he still has passion and love for this game. ...

"His biggest attribute to me is his aggressiveness and violent approach to every play. That is also his weak spot. Sometimes he's too aggressive and so emotional that he hits first and asks questions later. Smart, passionate, relentless are all words that come to mind when thinking of 'The MadBacker.'"

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Ainge, Erik	QB	6-5	221	06/12/1986	3	Tennessee
11 Clemens, Kellen	QB	6-2	221	06/06/1983	5	Oregon
7 O'Connell, Kevin	QB	6-5	225	05/25/1985	3	San Diego State
6 Sanchez, Mark	QB	6-2	225	11/11/1986	2	USC

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
60 Ferguson, D'Brickashaw	T	6-6	310	12/10/1983	5	Virginia
71 Gay, Dan	T	6-4	303	08/29/1986	1	Baylor
78 Hunter, Wayne	T	6-5	303	07/02/1981	7	Hawaii
74 Mangold, Nick	C	6-4	305	01/13/1984	5	Ohio State
65 Moore, Brandon	G	6-3	305	06/03/1980	8	Illinois
56 Parenton, Michael	C	6-2	287	11/02/1985	1	Tulane
46 Purdum, Tanner	C	6-3	217	01/01/1986	1	Baker
68 Slauson, Matt	G	6-5	315	02/18/1986	2	Nebraska
72 Turkovich, Michael	T	6-6	301	11/27/1986	1	Notre Dame
75 Turner, Robert	T	6-4	308	08/20/1984	3	New Mexico
67 Woody, Damien	T	6-3	330	11/03/1977	12	Boston College

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
43 Davis, Jason	RB	5-10	242	11/02/1983	3	Illinois
23 Greene, Shonn	RB	5-11	226	08/21/1985	2	Iowa
49 Richardson, Tony	RB	6-1	238	12/17/1971	16	Auburn
21 Tomlinson, LaDainian	RB	5-10	221	06/23/1979	10	TCU
32 Washington, Chauncey	RB	5-11	224	04/29/1986	3	USC
29 Washington, Leon	RB	5-8	195	08/29/1982	5	Florida State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
88 Allison, Aundrae	WR	6-0	198	06/25/1986	3	East Carolina
87 Clowney, David	WR	6-0	188	07/08/1985	3	Virginia Tech
89 Cotchery, Jerricho	WR	6-0	203	06/16/1982	7	N.C. State
19 Davis, Britt	WR	6-3	205	04/23/1986	1	Northern Illinois
17 Edwards, Braylon	WR	6-3	215	02/21/1983	6	Michigan
18 Green, S.J.	WR	6-3	220	06/20/1985	1	South Florida
84 Hartsock, Ben	TE	6-4	264	07/05/1980	7	Ohio State
14 Henry, Marcus	WR	6-4	212	02/21/1986	1	Kansas
10 Holmes, Santonio	WR	5-11	192	03/03/1984	5	Ohio State
81 Keller, Dustin	TE	6-2	248	09/25/1984	3	Purdue
82 Mulligan, Matthew	TE	6-4	270	01/18/1985	2	Maine
16 Smith, Brad	WR	6-2	210	12/12/1983	5	Missouri
15 Taylor, Larry	WR	5-6	173	05/30/1985	1	Connecticut
83 Woodhead, Danny	WR	5-9	200	01/25/1985	1	Chadron State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
70 DeVito, Mike	DE	6-3	305	06/10/1984	4	Maine
92 Ellis, Shaun	DE	6-5	285	06/24/1977	11	Tennessee
50 Gholston, Vernon	DE	6-3	264	06/05/1986	3	Ohio State
77 Jenkins, Kris	DT	6-4	360	08/03/1979	10	Maryland
63 Kroul, Matt	DT	6-3	280	02/25/1986	1	Iowa
79 Pitoitua, Ropati	DE	6-8	310	04/06/1985	2	Washington State
91 Pouha, Sione	DT	6-3	325	02/03/1979	6	Utah
61 Steinkuhler, Ty	DT	6-3	280	09/11/1985	1	Nebraska
90 Wright, Rodrique	DT	6-5	300	07/31/1984	3	Texas

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Cole, Marquice	CB	5-10	190	11/13/1983	2	Northwestern
30 Coleman, Drew	CB	5-9	175	04/22/1983	5	TCU
42 Condren, Brannon	S	6-1	205	08/19/1983	3	Troy
31 Cromartie, Antonio	CB	6-2	203	04/15/1984	5	Florida State
44 Ihedigbo, James	CB	6-1	210	12/03/1983	4	Massachusetts
36 Leonhard, Jim	S	5-8	186	10/27/1982	6	Wisconsin
26 Lowery, Dwight	CB	5-11	198	01/23/1986	3	San Jose State
22 Pool, Brodney	S	6-2	210	05/24/1984	6	Oklahoma
24 Revis, Darrelle	CB	5-11	198	07/14/1985	4	Pittsburgh
Smith, Bo	CB	6-0	190	06/08/1983	1	Weber State
33 Smith, Eric	S	6-1	205	03/17/1983	5	Michigan State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
53 Butler, Ezra	LB	6-2	248	11/20/1984	0	Nevada
54 Cummings, Kenwin	LB	6-3	250	07/23/1986	2	Wingate
52 Harris, David	LB	6-2	245	01/21/1984	4	Michigan
50 Laury, Lance	LB	6-2	237	01/17/1982	5	South Carolina
58 Mauga, Josh	LB	6-1	243	06/20/1987	1	Nevada
97 Pace, Calvin	LB	6-4	265	10/28/1980	8	Wake Forest
57 Scott, Bart	LB	6-2	240	08/18/1980	9	Southern Illinois
Taylor, Jason	LB	6-6	255	09/01/1974	14	Akron
99 Thomas, Bryan	LB	6-4	266	06/07/1979	9	UAB
55 Westerman, Jamaal	LB	6-3	255	02/21/1985	2	Rutgers

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Conley, T.J.	P	6-3	220	08/29/1985	1	Idaho
6 Folk, Nick	K	6-1	222	11/05/1984	4	Arizona
Stitser, Clint	K	6-1	200	05/19/1985	0	Fresno State
9 Weatherford, Steve	P	6-2	217	12/17/1982	5	Illinois

» REX RYAN, *Head coach*

Brian Schottenheimer, offensive coordinator; **Mike Pettine**, defensive coordinator; **Mike Westhoff**, special teams coordinator; **Bill Callahan**, assistant head coach/offensive line; **Anthony Lynn**, running backs; **Mike Devlin**, tight ends; **Henry Ellard**, wide receivers; **Matt Cavanaugh**, quarterbacks; **Dennis Thurman**, secondary; **Bob Sutton**, defensive assistant/linebackers; **Mark Carrier**, defensive line; **Ben Kotwica**, special teams assistant

and James Ihedigbo both impressed in part-time roles last season and will compete with former Brown Brodney Pool to earn the starting free safety spot vacated when Kerry Rhodes was traded to Arizona.

Cornerback Dwight Lowery has started at times for the Jets but is more suited for a nickel role, a spot in which first-round pick Kyle Wilson should contribute immediately. **GRADE: A-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Jets saved money but took a big risk in not bringing back reliable Jay Feely and instead signing Nick Folk, who was cut by Dallas in December. Folk was tremendous in 2007 and '08 but slumped last season, hitting only 18 of 28 field goal attempts. He blamed that on offseason hip surgery before the campaign, which resulted in him changing his mechanics. The Jets believe special teams guru Mike Westhoff will help Folk recapture his old form.

Punter Steve Weatherford was adequate in 2009 and had surgery in March to correct an irregular heartbeat that sidelined him for one playoff game. Brad Smith is a dangerous kickoff return man, while Wilson will likely replace Cotchery and Leonhard in handling punt returns. **GRADE: B-**

BOTTOM LINE

This is a talented team with few holes, but Ryan will need to make sure there are no issues in the locker room. Sanchez must avoid the sophomore jinx and figure out a way to keep all the members of a deep receiving corps happy, and the Jets need to match the production they got at running back from Jones.

The Jets also need to generate more sacks than the 32 they had last season. If all of these things happen, they should grab their first AFC East title since 2002 and have a strong shot to make it to the Super Bowl.

95
FINAL GRADE

FANTASY SPIN
www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

The Jets' receiving corps could be tough to figure out once Santonio Holmes finishes serving his four-game suspension. Bank on Braylon Edwards emerging as the No. 1 wideout.

BUY
Shonn Greene
RB

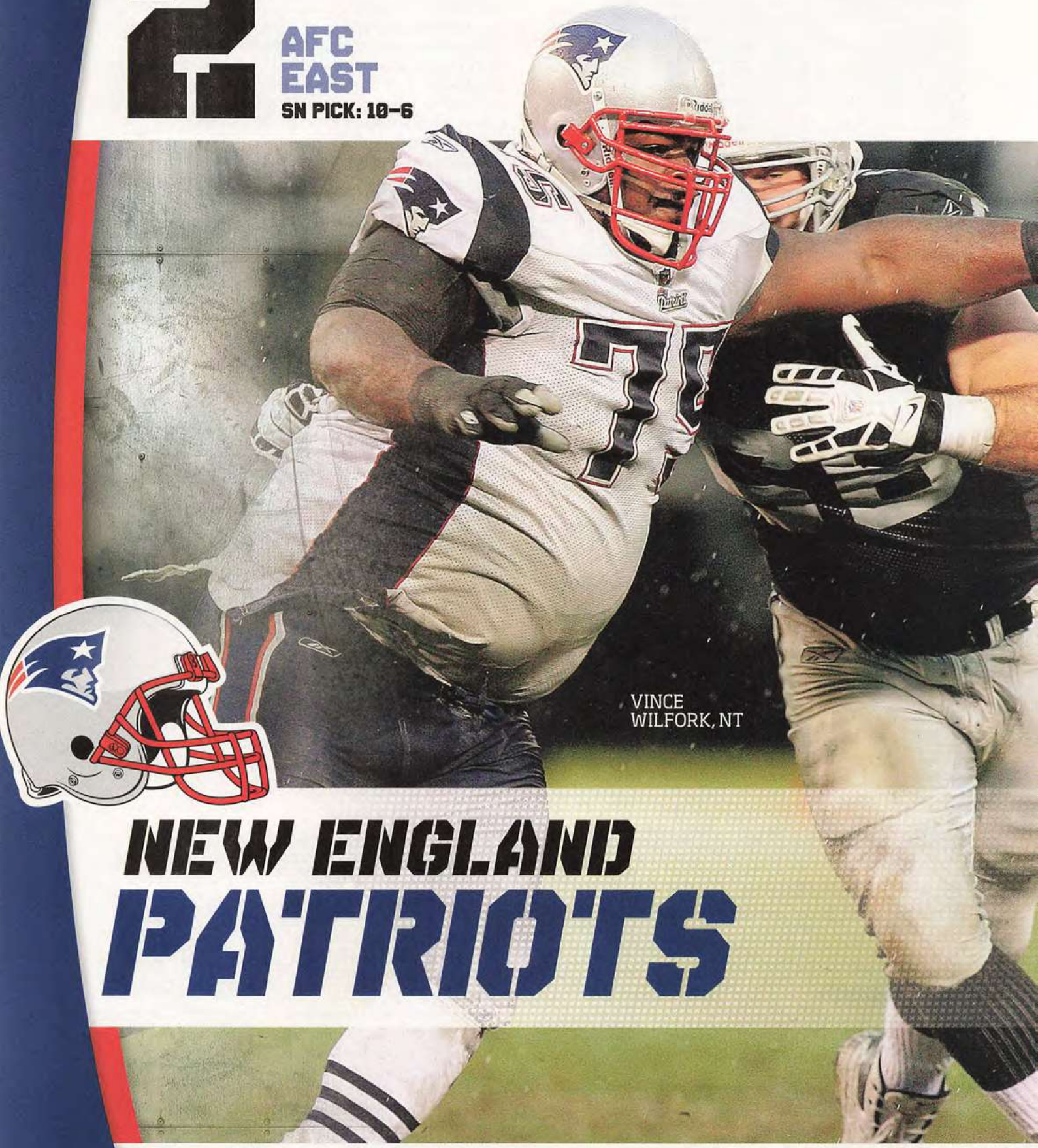
SELL
Santonio Holmes
WR

SLEEPER
Dustin Keller
TE

2

AFC EAST

SN PICK: 10-6



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Pats hope Belichick's added roles return them to AFC's top

By Ian R. Rapoport, *Boston Herald*

They picked up the pieces in the offseason. Those shattered, splattered pieces, broken by the Ravens in a historic playoff beatdown, are the lasting memories of a frustrating 2009.

The Patriots return, aiming to prove that many of those same parts can create a more productive whole.

Quarterback Tom Brady is back, no longer recovering from reconstructive knee surgery. Randy Moss is in a contract year, and Wes Welker (knee) is hoping to make it by opening day. The defense, now with some long-term security, is aiming to limit big plays.

All coach Bill Belichick is doing is going into 2010 without an offensive or defensive coordinator.

"I try to be kind of involved in everything," Belichick says, "because it all ties together."

After two seasons without a playoff win, will it return the Patriots to prominence?

OFFENSE

Even with Brady and Moss, there is uncertainty on an offense that was third overall in the NFL (397.3 yards per game) in 2009. It's unclear when Welker will be back (and then how long until he is at full strength), and the offense will be working in rookie tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez. Only the inconsistent running back stable is intact. Perhaps more important is for quarterbacks coach Bill O'Brien to find some rhythm. Either way, having Brady at the helm is still a gift. But he'll need some playmaking help to achieve the consistency that was lacking last year.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ After a season away from the field because of torn knee ligaments, Brady returned in 2009 to huge expectations. With a shaky start, Brady appeared to battle the entire year while searching for an identity for the offense and warding off nagging injuries. Despite all that, Brady (4,398 yards, 28 TDs, 13 INTs) still finished fifth in passing, and those who sustain knee injuries like his look for a large leap in Year 2.

Even without Welker being 100 percent, Brady's improvement should hand the unit some much-needed stability. He may thrive because the focus now won't be solely on his limbs. And don't forget that Brady is entering the final year of his contract. Not that he needs incentive, as few are as dedicated in the offseason. If Brady is at the helm, the Patriots have a chance.

As for insurance, there is former undrafted free agent Brian Hoyer and recently drafted Oklahoma State quarterback Zac Robinson. Hoyer saw some key minutes last season, including on the final drive of the regular-season finale. For someone with as little credentials, Hoyer is already a solid No. 2 QB. **GRADE: A**

Running backs ▸▸ Laurence Maroney likes to refer to the group of running backs as "Voltron" after the 1980s cartoon about five superheroes who come together to form one giant. Yet during 2009, there were few times the Patriots even had five healthy backs.

Maroney rushed for 757 yards last season, and displayed as much inconsistency as promise. A bout of fumbleitis shook the fourth-year back, sending him into a make-or-break 2010. If he finally lives up to his potential, Maroney may receive a new contract. Otherwise, the Patriots' running game will continue to fight to be productive.

Maroney figures to have more help this year than in 2009. Veteran Fred Taylor missed most of last season with a foot injury, while Sammy Morris was out during the middle of the season because of a knee

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

DARIUS BUTLER — **CB**

It took until the middle of last season for Butler to find steady snaps on the field. During New England's final game of the regular season, he took an interception 91 yards for a TD. Look for the second-year pro to be a force in 2010.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Tom Brady Brian Hoyer
RB	Laurence Maroney Fred Taylor
LT	Matt Light Nick Kaczur
LG	Logan Mankins Rich Ohmberger
C	Dan Koppen Ted Larsen
RG	Stephen Neal Dan Connolly
RT	Sebastian Vollmer Mark LeVoir
TE	Rob Gronkowski Alge Crumpler
WR	Torry Holt Brandon Tate
WR	Randy Moss Brandon Tate
WR	Wes Welker Julian Edelman
	DEFENSE
DE	Ty Warren Mike Wright
NT	Vince Wilfork Myron Pryor
DE	Damione Lewis Gerard Warren
OLB	Tully Banta-Cain Jermaine Cunningham
ILB	Jerod Mayo Thomas Williams
ILB	Brandon Spikes Gary Guyton
OLB	Pierre Woods Rob Ninkovich
LCB	Shawn Springs Devin McCourty
SS	Brandon Meriweather Pat Chung
FS	James Sanders Brandon McGowan
RCB	Leigh Bodden Darius Butler
	SPECIALISTS
K	Stephen Gostkowski
P	Zoltan Mesko
KR	Brandon Tate
PR	Kevin Faulk
LS	Jake Ingram

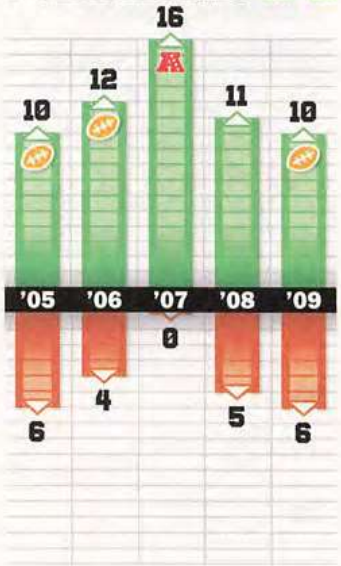
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 8-0

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/patriots
www.patriots.com

STADIUM
Gillette Stadium
Capacity: 68,756 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 800-745-3000
Training Camp: Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, Mass.; 508-384-0578

OPPOSITE PAGE: ZUMA / NEWSCOM

5-YEAR RECORD: 59-21



ailment. The 30-and-over crew of Taylor (4.3 yards per carry), Morris (319 yards) and third-down back Kevin Faulk (636 total yards) don't have the same ceiling as Maroney. But if he falters, their steadiness could be huge as the Patriots ask them to shoulder more of the load to balance out the offense and take the burden off the passing game. **GRADE: C+**

Receivers ▸▸ At times last season, the NFL's best receiving duo was unstoppable. Moss had a league-high 13 touchdowns to go with his 1,264 yards and 83 catches. Welker led the NFL with 123 catches along with 1,348 yards before a brutal knee injury knocked him out of the playoffs.

A third outlet for Brady never emerged, though former college quarterback Julian Edelman, special teamer Sam Aiken and mercurial rookie Brandon Tate tried. Expect speedy rookie Taylor Price from Ohio and free agent signee Torry Holt to try, too.

With the 33-year-old Moss heading into potentially his final year as a Patriot and Welker likely missing at least the beginning of the season because of his torn knee ligaments, there is a serious need to develop more threats. Without a robust running game, the receivers feel the burden.

Edelman (37 catches, 359 yards) may be Welker Jr., and Tate is another wild card, as he came to the Patriots as a third-round pick with an ACL tear. After going through the offseason workouts in full form, he has a chance to make an impact. As for Holt, the Pats hope he's not another discarded veteran like Joey Galloway. **GRADE: A-**

Offensive line ▸▸ Since 2006, New England's offensive line has been a constant. When Brady has dropped back to pass, he's been protected by the same five players: Matt Light and Nick Kaczur as the bookends, Logan Mankins and Stephen Neal as the guards and Dan Koppen as the center.

They thrived last season despite some key injuries, even going four games without having Brady sacked. Yet for the first time, the group could be broken up in 2010.

Mankins' contract uncertainty aside, Sebastian Vollmer represents the biggest possibility for change. His stellar play during the time Light missed with a dislocated knee opened some eyes. Light is a natural Pro Bowl left tackle, but Vollmer may force Kaczur to come off the bench. The unit does need to become more physical in the run game, and Vollmer can only help. **GRADE: B+**

DEFENSE

An up-and-down 2009 was spent struggling to come to grips with losing leaders such as Tedy Bruschi, Richard Seymour

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	397.3	3
RUSHING	120.1	12
PASSING	277.3	3
SCORING	427	6
PUNT RETURNS	11.4	5
KICK RETURNS	22.7	15
RED ZONE TD %	52.3	13
TOTAL DEFENSE	320.2	11
AGAINST RUSH	110.5	13
AGAINST PASS	209.7	12
POINTS ALLOWED	285	5
INTERCEPTIONS	18	11t
SACKS	31	23t
TURNOVER DIFF.	6	8t

PATRIOTS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)*

1	Andre Tippett *(1982-93)*	100.0
2	Willie McGinest *(1994-2005)*	78.0
3	Chris Slade *(1993-2000)*	51.0

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Wes Welker likely won't be ready for the start of the season, so there's no point in wasting an early draft pick on him. Target Julian Edelman instead.

BUY
Tom Brady
QB

SELL
Defense/Special Teams

SLEEPER
Julian Edelman
WR

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Patriots)

"I think their strength is still the offensive line and Tom Brady. I don't think they're as a dominant group on the offensive line; he just knew how to get the job done. And, of course, the quarterback is going to make that ship sail. There's no question about it. If he's good, they're going to be good. He's just got that kind of ability. ...

"You know, they're getting older. (Randy) Moss is getting older, (Wes) Welker with the (knee) injury, some of the offensive linemen getting older, Brady is getting older—they've got to start replacing some of that older talent with young guys that can take significant roles. I think that's important because the draft choices that they've had in the last couple years, those guys have to start coming in and taking up for some of these older players or failed unrestricted free agents like Adalius Thomas. They paid a lot of money to Adalius and it didn't work."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/14	W	25-24	Buffalo Bills
09/20	L	9-16	at New York Jets
09/27	W	26-10	Atlanta Falcons
10/04	W	27-21	Baltimore Ravens
10/11	L	17-20	at Denver Broncos
10/18	W	59-0	Tennessee Titans
10/25	W	35-7	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/08	W	27-17	Miami Dolphins
11/15	L	34-35	at Indianapolis Colts
11/22	W	31-14	New York Jets
11/30	L	17-38	at New Orleans Saints
12/06	L	21-22	at Miami Dolphins
12/13	W	20-10	Carolina Panthers
12/20	W	17-10	at Buffalo Bills
12/27	W	35-7	Jacksonville Jaguars
01/03	L	27-34	at Houston Texans

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Maroney	194	757	3.9	45	9
Faulk	62	335	5.4	29	2
Morris	73	319	4.4	55	2
Taylor	63	269	4.3	19	4
Green-Ellis	26	114	4.4	29	0
Brady	29	44	1.5	9	1
Welker	5	36	7.2	11	0
Hoyer	10	25	2.5	20	1
Tate	1	11	11.0	11	0
Slater	1	6	6.0	6	0
Edelman	2	5	2.5	5	0
PATRIOTS	**466**	**1921**	**4.1**	**55**	**19**
OPPONENTS	398	1768	4.4	50	6

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Welker	123	1348	11.0	58	4
Moss	83	1264	15.2	71	13
Edelman	37	359	9.7	29	1
Faulk	37	301	8.1	38	1
Watson	29	404	13.9	36	5
Aiken	20	326	16.3	81	2
Morris	19	180	9.5	35	0
Baker	14	142	10.1	36	2
Maroney	14	99	7.1	17	0
Stanback	3	22	7.3	9	0
Taylor	2	17	8.5	13	0
Green-Ellis	2	11	5.5	6	0
PATRIOTS	**390**	**4436**	**11.4**	**81**	**28**
OPPONENTS	300	3355	11.2	75	25

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brady	565	371	4398	28	13
Hoyer	27	19	142	0	0
PATRIOTS	**592**	**390**	**4436**	**28**	**13**
OPPONENTS	512	300	3355	25	18

SACKS — PATRIOTS 31, OPPONENTS 18

Banta-Cain 10, Burgess 5, Wright 5, Thomas 3, Chung 2, Guyton 1.5, Mayo 1.5, Green 1, Ninkovich 1, Warren 1

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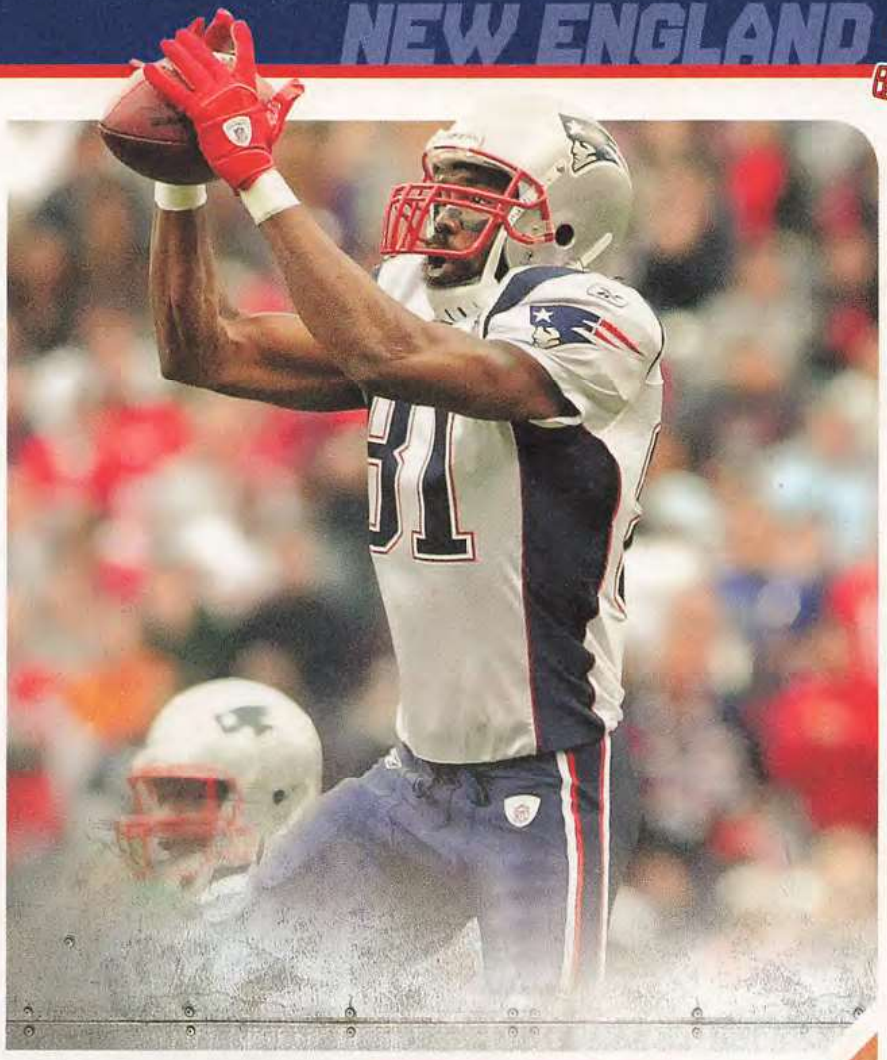


THE BOOK ON ... RANDY MOSS

(how a rival sizes him up)

"He's one that's probably easy to talk about, but hard to implement your ideas because he's so talented. But he's extremely talented when he wants to be. He's a player who, if you could take out of a game early—bracket coverage, double coverage, jamming him at the line, keep him out of the flow of the game—he gets frustrated and kind (of) takes himself out of the game. ...

But Randy is one of those ultra-talented players that you're not going to match up with him physically—you're just not. You don't have the talent. He can do what he wants, when he wants. And he's got the quarterback to allow that to happen. But the deal is with him, is try to take him out early and get him frustrated, and then he takes himself out of the game. That's really your game plan with Randy Moss. When he gets in a flow of the game, when he starts to get some touches early in the game, and you'll see them try to get the ball to him early, he's tough.

and Rodney Harrison. The result was too many big plays and not enough direction. Now a year older, wiser and healthier, the Patriots filled holes in the draft and free agency at linebacker and end. Vince Wilfork and Jerod Mayo are back up the middle, while safety Brandon Meriweather hopes to capitalize on a Pro Bowl season. A renewed pass rush and the addition of first-round pick Devin McCourty at cornerback will help.

Defensive line ▸▸ The 2010 season is beginning far better than '09. The shocker was when five-time Pro Bowler Richard Seymour was traded to Oakland in the preseason—a move from which the Patriots never recovered.

This time around, Wilfork has signed his multiyear extension instead of allowing it to fester. Few in the game are better at making plays despite double teams. Ty Warren returns healthier, ready to prove last year's inconsistency was a fluke. And

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Cincinnati
SEPT. 12 | 1:00
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 2 @ N.Y. Jets
SEPT. 19 | 4:15
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 3 Buffalo
SEPT. 26 | 1:00
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 4 @ Miami
OCT. 4 | 8:30
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 5 OPEN DATE

WEEK 6 Baltimore
OCT. 17 | 1:00
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 7 @ San Diego
OCT. 24 | 4:15
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 8 Minnesota
OCT. 31 | 4:15
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 9 @ Cleveland
NOV. 7 | 1:00
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 10 @ Pittsburgh
NOV. 14 | 8:20
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 11 Indianapolis
NOV. 21 | 4:15
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 12 @ Detroit
NOV. 25 | 12:30
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 13 N.Y. Jets
DEC. 6 | 8:30
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 14 @ Chicago
DEC. 12 | 1:00
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 15 Green Bay
DEC. 19 | 8:20
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 16 @ Buffalo
DEC. 26 | 1:00
—
SCORE
W L

WEEK 17 Miami
JAN. 2 | 1:00
—
SCORE
W L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Belichick added some sound veteran help in Damione Lewis and Gerard Warren, who will battle to hold down the right end spot in the 3-4. Both are talented, durable and massive.

Backups such as Mike Wright will help at end, and Myron Pryor fits in as a backup nose tackle. One large variable is the development of former second-round pick Ron Brace. Some are already wondering if he's a bust. **GRADE: B+**

Linebackers ▸▸ The scariest (and most telling) moment of the 2009 season came in the opener, when Mayo crumpled to the turf grabbing his knee. He was able to return three weeks later from a sprained MCL, but was a shell of himself. Now back at 100 percent, Mayo is primed for a breakout year.

Gary Guyton called signals when Mayo was out, but he hasn't shown the consistent ability to stuff the run. Perhaps that's why the Patriots drafted helmet-rattling All-America linebacker Brandon Spikes from Florida to compete with Guyton and Tyrone McKenzie. If it's Spikes and Mayo manning the middle, it should make for a fearsome duo.

There are more questions outside. Pierre Woods is a sturdy linebacker whose playing time is increasing, but everyone else is a question mark. Adalius Thomas was cut in the offseason, and Shawn Crable remains a mystery. A long, athletic talent, he is in his third season after two on injured reserve. Is this the year he finally appears on the production chart? **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ▸▸ There were times when watching the Patriots' secondary last year was downright ugly. Leigh Bodden is a

OFFSEASON MOVES

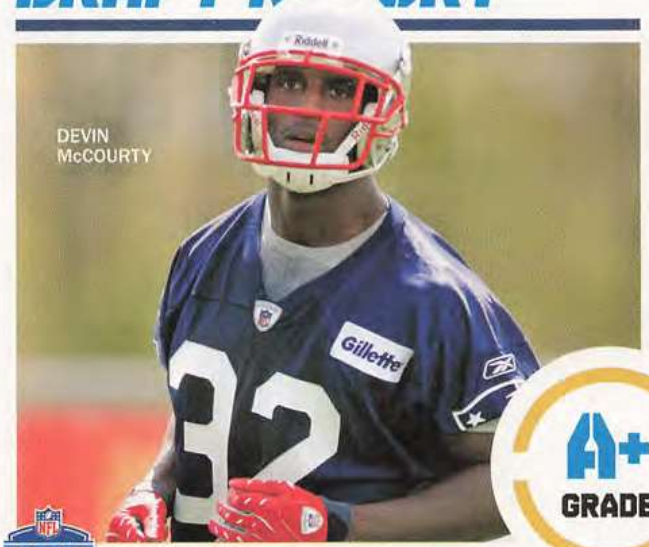
ADDITIONS

TE Alge Crumpler *(FA/Titans)*, **DT Damione Lewis** *(FA/Panthers)*, **WR David Patten** *(FA/Browns)*, **P David King** *(FA/Australia)*, **WR Torry Holt** *(FA/Jaguars)*, **DT Gerard Warren** *(FA/Raiders)*

SUBTRACTIONS

TE Benjamin Watson *(FA/Browns)*, **DE Jarvis Green** *(FA/Broncos)*, **LB Adalius Thomas** *(FA)*, **TE Chris Baker** *(FA/Seahawks)*, **DE Derrick Burgess** *(FA)*, **P Chris Hanson** *(FA)*

DRAFT REPORT



A+ GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	27	Devin McCourty	CB	5-11	193	Rutgers
2	10	Rob Gronkowski	TE	6-6	258	Arizona
2	21	Jermaine Cunningham	DE	6-4	266	Florida
2	30	Brandon Spikes	LB	6-3	249	Florida
3	26	Taylor Price	WR	6-1	204	Ohio
4	15	Aaron Hernandez	TE	6-3	245	Florida
5	19	Zoltan Mesko	P	6-5	240	Michigan
6	36	Ted Larsen	C	6-3	304	N.C. State
7	1	Thomas Welch	OT	6-7	307	Vanderbilt
7	40	Brandon Deaderick	DT	6-4	314	Alabama
7	41	Kade Weston	DT	6-5	316	Georgia
7	43	Zac Robinson	QB	6-3	214	Oklahoma State

Once again the Patriots hit a home run by finding potential rookie starters throughout the draft. Cornerback **Devin McCourty** was projected as a second-round pick, but the Patriots liked his special teams ability and sought him out at No. 27 overall.

Tight end **Rob Gronkowski** is a great natural receiver and, at 6-6 and 258 pounds, can block anybody in the NFL. **Jermaine Cunningham** played defensive end in college but is a better fit as a rush linebacker in the Patriots' 3-4 scheme. Linebacker **Brandon Spikes** will also help as a rookie because of his size and aggressiveness against blockers. The third and fourth rounds brought in potential rookie starters in receiver **Taylor Price** and tight end **Aaron Hernandez**.

Zoltan Mesko will likely win the punting job in his first season. The Pats found some valuable backups in the sixth and seventh rounds, including nose tackle **Kade Weston**, who could take the starting job when Vince Wilfork's time in New England comes to a close.

STEW MILNE / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
12 Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	225	08/03/1977	11	Michigan
8 Hoyer, Brian	QB	6-2	215	10/13/1985	2	Michigan State
9 Rowe, Jeff	QB	6-5	221	03/21/1984	3	Nevada

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
66 Bussey, George	T	6-2	306	10/24/1984	1	Louisville
63 Connolly, Dan	G	6-4	313	09/02/1982	5	Southeast Missouri St.
77 Kaczur, Nick	T	6-4	315	07/28/1979	6	Toledo
67 Koppen, Dan	C	6-2	296	09/12/1979	8	Boston College
64 LeVoir, Mark	T	6-7	306	07/29/1982	4	Notre Dame
72 Light, Matt	T	6-4	305	06/23/1978	10	Purdue
70 Mankins, Logan	G	6-4	310	03/10/1982	6	Fresno State
61 Neal, Stephen	G	6-4	305	10/09/1976	9	Cal State Bakersfield
60 Ohmberger, Rich	G	6-2	291	02/13/1986	2	Penn State
76 Vollmer, Sebastian	T	6-8	315	07/10/1984	2	Houston
69 Wendell, Ryan	C	6-2	285	03/04/1986	2	Fresno State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
33 Faulk, Kevin	RB	5-8	202	06/05/1976	12	LSU
42 Green-Ellis, BenJarvus	RB	5-11	215	07/02/1985	3	Ole Miss
39 Maroney, Laurence	RB	5-11	220	02/05/1985	5	Minnesota
34 Morris, Sammy	RB	6-0	220	03/23/1977	11	Texas Tech
21 Taylor, Fred	RB	6-1	228	01/27/1976	13	Florida

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
85 Agnone, Robert	TE	6-6	260	10/02/1985	1	Delaware
88 Aiken, Sam	WR	6-2	215	12/14/1980	8	North Carolina
82 Crumpler, Alge	TE	6-2	262	12/23/1977	10	North Carolina
11 Edelman, Julian	WR	6-0	198	05/22/1986	2	Kent State
84 Holt, Torry	WR	6-0	190	06/05/1976	12	N.C. State
10 Jenkins, Darnell	WR	5-10	188	12/31/1982	1	Miami (FL)
81 Moss, Randy	WR	6-4	210	02/13/1977	13	Marshall
80 Myers, Rob	TE	6-4	240	04/09/1986	1	Utah State
86 Patten, David	WR	5-10	190	08/19/1974	13	Western Carolina
18 Slater, Matthew	WR	6-0	198	09/09/1985	3	UCLA
15 Stanback, Isaiah	WR	6-2	208	08/16/1984	4	Washington
19 Tate, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	10/05/1987	1	North Carolina
83 Welker, Wes	WR	5-9	185	05/01/1981	7	Texas Tech

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
92 Brace, Ron	DT	6-3	330	12/18/1986	2	Boston College
65 Grady, Adrian	DT	6-1	290	11/21/1985	1	Louisville
47 Ingram, Jake	DE	6-2	232	10/23/1985	2	Hawaii
92 Lewis, Damione	DT	6-2	301	03/01/1978	10	Miami (FL)
91 Pryor, Myron	DT	6-1	310	06/13/1986	2	Kentucky
90 Richard, Darryl	DT	6-4	290	06/17/1986	1	Georgia Tech
94 Warren, Ty	DT	6-5	300	02/06/1981	8	Texas A&M
75 Wilfork, Vince	DT	6-2	325	11/04/1981	7	Miami (FL)
99 Wright, Mike	DT	6-4	295	03/01/1982	6	Cincinnati

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
27 Arrington, Kyle	CB	5-10	196	08/12/1986	2	Hofstra
23 Bodden, Leigh	CB	6-1	193	09/24/1981	8	Duquesne
28 Butler, Darius	CB	5-11	183	03/18/1986	2	Connecticut
25 Chung, Patrick	S	5-11	212	08/19/1987	2	Oregon
38 Lockett, Bret	S	6-1	211	10/07/1986	2	UCLA
30 McGowan, Brandon	S	5-11	207	09/26/1983	6	Maine
31 Meriweather, Brandon	S	5-11	200	01/14/1984	4	Miami (FL)
36 Sanders, James	S	5-10	210	11/11/1983	6	Fresno State
29 Springs, Shawn	CB	6-0	204	03/11/1975	14	Ohio State
22 Wheatley, Terrence	CB	5-9	183	05/05/1985	3	Colorado
24 Wilhite, Jonathan	CB	5-11	185	02/23/1984	3	Auburn

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
52 Alexander, Eric	LB	6-2	240	02/08/1982	6	LSU
95 Banta-Cain, Tully	LB	6-2	250	08/28/1980	8	California
98 Crable, Shawn	LB	6-5	243	12/26/1984	2	Michigan
49 Davis, Bruce	LB	6-3	252	09/02/1985	2	UCLA
59 Guyton, Gary	LB	6-3	242	11/14/1985	3	Georgia Tech
51 Mayo, Jerod	LB	6-1	242	02/23/1986	3	Tennessee
44 McKenzie, Tyrone	LB	6-2	243	12/11/1985	1	South Florida
94 Murrell, Marques	LB	6-2	250	03/20/1985	4	Appalachian State
50 Ninkovich, Rob	LB	6-2	255	02/01/1984	4	Purdue
96 Thomas, Adalius	LB	6-2	270	08/18/1977	11	Southern Miss
48 Williams, Thomas	LB	6-1	237	12/25/1984	2	USC
58 Woods, Pierre	LB	6-5	250	01/06/1982	5	Michigan

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Gostkowski, Stephen	K	6-1	210	01/28/1984	5	Memphis
5 King, David	P	6-0	200	08/24/1981	0	None

» BILL BELICHICK, *Head coach*
Corwin Brown, defensive coach; **Scott O'Brien**, special teams coordinator; **Dante Scarnecchia**, assistant head coach/offensive line; **Ivan Fears**, running backs; **Chad O'Shea**, wide receivers; **Bill O'Brien**, quarterbacks; **Josh Boyer**, secondary; **Matt Patricia**, linebackers; **Pepper Johnson**, defensive line

ballhawk, and he had three interceptions in one game last season. Re-signing him this offseason was essential. Opposite him is veteran Shawn Springs, who was benched for a long stretch in 2009, and second-year player Darius Butler, a rising star.

The names appear fine. So why did New England use a first-round selection on McCourty? Because bodies don't equal results. This unit must still improve immensely and the smart, physical McCourty figures to help immediately. With the team playing so much in nickel and dime formations, having three cornerbacks is essential.

At safety, Meriweather returns looking to build on his '09 Pro Bowl campaign. But it wasn't perfect, despite his five interceptions. He says the focus now is on tackling better, which would be welcome. As a safety, he missed too many in the open field.

Alongside him is either James Sanders or Brandon McGowan, but that's only if last year's first-round pick, Pat Chung, stays on the bench. He may break out at safety.

GRADE: C+

INSIDE THE HEADSET

BILL BELICHICK

If there's one thing Belichick showed in 2009, it was that he's not afraid to take chances. Fourth-and-2 in Indianapolis told us that. Forget convention. Belichick doesn't believe in it, and the defense is ready.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Patriots kicker Stephen Gostkowski had an off year, which meant making "only" 83.9 percent of his attempts. The Pro Bowler gives the Patriots a huge advantage. And Gostkowski is helped by the consistency of long snapper Jake Ingram, who was nothing but perfect in 2009. His name was rarely mentioned, which is always a positive.

But the player who could help return the Patriots to the special teams glory Belichick covets is fifth-round punter Zoltan Mesko, who can boom kicks. Many of the special teams problems last season involved punter Chris Hanson, who specialized in line drives. Mesko appears ready to step in after averaging 44.5 yards per punt in college. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

Without a Super Bowl appearance since the middle of last decade, New England fans are antsy and so are the players. Brady, poised to negotiate his final contract, will do his best to throw the team on his back.

Moss is in the final season of his contract, and he's already chatted about leaving next year.

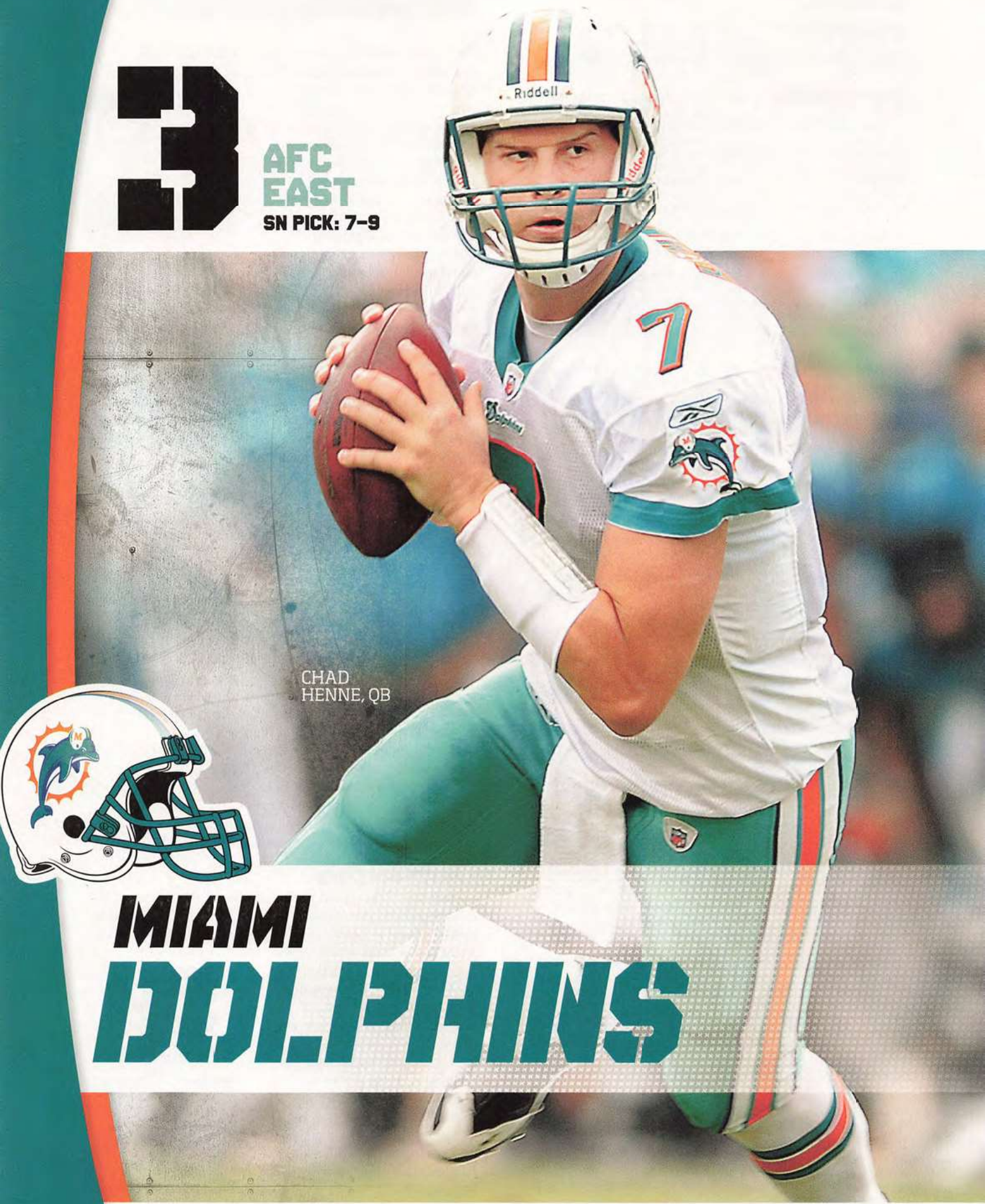
It's possible this Patriots team as we know it may be on its last legs, which is why Belichick is constantly trying to reinvent the personnel. Assuming Welker returns healthy, 2010 may be kinder to the Patriots than '09. On two strong legs this time, look for Brady to carry the team back into the playoffs.

90
FINAL GRADE

3

AFC EAST

SN PICK: 7-9



CHAD HENNE, QB

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Bolstered by new investments, Dolphins look for playoff push

By Jeff Darlington, *Miami Herald*

When linebacker Karlos Dansby arrived in south Florida for a visit with the Dolphins on the first day of free agency, it didn't take him long to be convinced about the direction of the organization.

It only took a few steps into the team's weight room on a random offseason afternoon.

"There were more than 40 guys in that building working out," Dansby said. "That showed me their commitment to winning. This organization is doing whatever it needs to do. That's what sold me, to be honest."

Here's what might sell others on Miami this season: To bolster its roster, the Dolphins gave two players (Dansby and wide receiver Brandon Marshall) a combined $93 million ($46 million guaranteed) over the next five years.

It's a huge investment from a team that's picky about its spending. But as the AFC East continues to become one of the most intense battlegrounds in the NFL, it was also an investment that should keep the Dolphins well within the hunt.

OFFENSE

For the past two years, the Dolphins overcame their shortcomings in the passing game by installing the Wildcat offense, a formula that proved successful in providing more space at the line of scrimmage for the running backs to work. But Miami could now be on the cusp of leaving the Wildcat behind, mostly because the team now has the necessary weapons to open up a more potent air attack.

With quarterback Chad Henne entering his second season as the starter, he has the opportunity to flourish with Marshall now at the center of the team's offense. Offensive coordinator Dan Henning can still find ways to make Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams effective on the ground, but he'll have more flexibility with play-calling now that Marshall is in the mix.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ The transition from Chad Pennington to Henne as the team's starting quarterback is complete, and he has now been given full reins of the offense. That's not to say Henne's maturation is close to finished (he threw 12 TDs against 14 INTs last season), but the Dolphins are comfortable enough with his progress to believe he'll be the starter for years to come.

Henne has a well-rounded skill set, from his rocket arm to his unwavering swagger. He should make a considerable jump in Year 3, partly because of his own growth and also because he now has one of the league's best targets in Marshall.

The Dolphins can feel good about Henne's backups, too. Tyler Thigpen will serve as the No. 2, while Pennington remains on the roster rehabilitating his shoulder injury. None of this is good for Pat White, last year's second-round pick, who has been unable to grasp the quarterback position in the NFL. **GRADE: B**

Running backs ▸▸ For at least one more season, the Dolphins will continue to have a deep backfield loaded with diverse talent. Brown, who is in a contract year, expects to be fully healed from last year's season-ending Lisfranc fracture, and Williams seems as motivated as ever to finish his career strong.

Brown has yet to show he can endure a 16-game season, ending his two best years prematurely. If they can stay healthy, Brown and Williams have the potential to be one of the league's best tandems.

While the Dolphins have been known

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

BRIAN HARTLINE — WR

Hartline was a rookie on a struggling passing team, but that didn't keep him from showing his potential early last season. He was responsible for four of the team's six biggest passing plays in 2009, and his growth should continue with Brandon Marshall in the mix.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Chad Henne Tyler Thigpen
FB	Lousaka Polite
RB	Ronnie Brown Ricky Williams
LT	Jake Long Nate Garner
LG	Nate Garner John Jerry
C	Jake Grove Joe Berger
RG	Richie Incognito Donald Thomas
RT	Vernon Carey Nate Garner
TE	Anthony Fasano Joey Haynos
WR	Brandon Marshall Greg Camarillo
WR	Brian Hartline Davone Bess
	DEFENSE
DE	Kendall Langford Phillip Merling
DT	Randy Starks Paul Soliai
DE	Jared Odrick Kendall Langford
OLB	Quentin Moses Koa Misi
ILB	Channing Crowder Reggie Torbor
ILB	Karlos Dansby Reggie Torbor
OLB	Cameron Wake Koa Misi
LCB	Vontae Davis Sean Smith
SS	Yeremiah Bell Tyrone Culver
FS	Chris Clemons Tyrone Culver
RCB	Will Allen Sean Smith
	SPECIALISTS
K	Dan Carpenter
P	Brandon Fields
KR	Patrick Cobbs
PR	Davone Bess
LS	John Denney

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 7-9 HOME: 4-4

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OPPOSITE PAGE: SUN SENTINEL / ZUMA / NEWSCOM

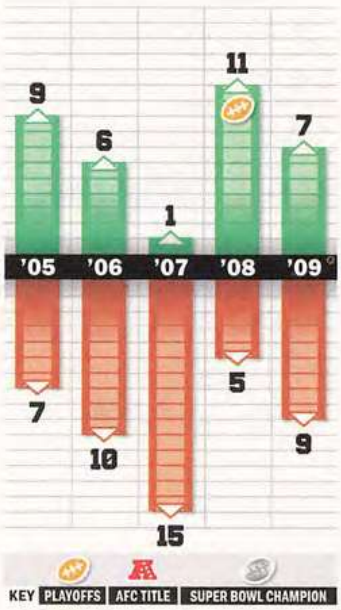
VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Dolphins)

"The Dolphins have become known across the league as a tough team with an innovative coaching staff, which causes opponents to be very diligent about their film study during the week prior to a game. Their ability to master the Wildcat was particularly impressive, but now it's time for them to take another step. They need to become a more multidimensional team on offense, capable of scoring more points, especially if the defense plays anything like it did last season when it gave up all of those points. It's obvious they realize this, since they added wide receiver Brandon Marshall. With Marshall, they're close to becoming the real deal. ...

"And think about it: If Ronnie Brown was able to be as productive as he was when the Dolphins didn't have a passing game, imagine what he's capable of doing when a defense isn't stuffing everybody they've got into the box. Marshall makes this whole team better. He's going to score a lot of points and help this team win a lot more games."

5-YEAR RECORD: 34-46



for the Wildcat offense, it's more likely both running backs will earn their yards the conventional way this season, given the increased expectations for the passing game. But don't count the Wildcat out completely. It affords Miami the chance to get both backs on the field, which is still viewed as a perk. Patrick Cobbs and Lex Hilliard should also provide sound relief for the team's top rushers. **GRADE: A**

Receivers ▸▸ No offensive unit in Miami has been criticized more during the last two seasons than the wideouts. And now, no unit has higher expectations. The Dolphins' passing game is expected to make a huge leap from last season, primarily as a result of the Marshall acquisition. Marshall, who replaces Ted Ginn Jr. (traded to the 49ers), should provide the aggressive punch and yards after catch the Dolphins have lacked.

The Dolphins have never had a problem with Greg Camarillo, Brian Hartline and Davone Bess—but no one from that trio has ever been considered a No. 1 receiver. Without the pressure to carry the team, each of those players can get back to focusing on their specific roles while letting Marshall open lanes for them.

Camarillo is the type of gritty, consistent receiver who can thrive in the intermediate passing game, while Hartline proved capable of becoming a big-play wideout in his rookie season. Bess provides consistency as a slot receiver in a fashion similar to Wes Welker's role in New England. **GRADE: B**

Offensive line ▸▸ Last year, when a rash of injuries caused Miami's offensive line to dig deep into its arsenal, it showed the vulnerabilities of the unit. If there are any concerns about the Dolphins here, it's probably depth. But there's little wrong with the anchors.

Left tackle Jake Long, the 2008 No. 1 overall pick, looks like he'll be an NFL fixture for the next decade. His pass blocking has caught up to his run blocking, making him the huge force that many have expected. Long's leadership, though, needs to thrive this season, especially if Justin Smiley is no longer around at right guard. And that's where things get interesting.

DRAFT REPORT

B+
GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	28	Jared Odrick	DT	6-5	304	Penn State
2	8	Koa Misi	LB	6-3	251	Utah
3	9	John Jerry	OT	6-6	328	Ole Miss
4	21	A.J. Edds	LB	6-4	246	Iowa
5	14	Nolan Carroll	CB	6-0	204	Maryland
5	32	Reshad Jones	S	6-1	214	Georgia
7	5	Chris McCoy	LB	6-3	261	Middle Tennessee
7	45	Austin Spitler	LB	6-2	243	Ohio State

The Dolphins drafted based on needs this year, picking up **Jared Odrick** at No. 28 overall. He played defensive tackle at Penn State but will switch to end in the Dolphins' 3-4 scheme. He's versatile enough to rotate on the line, even playing nose tackle at times as a rookie. **Koa Misi**, a second-round pick, will be a productive rush linebacker in the 3-4. **John Jerry** is an athletic offensive tackle who will be a productive starting lineman if he keeps his weight under control.

The bulk of the Dolphins' third-day draftees were solid college players who aren't likely to shine in the pros, though cornerback **Nolan Carroll** and safety **Reshad Jones** have the talent to develop into starters with time. Jones declared for the draft as a junior and his lack of on-field maturity shows, which is the only reason he needs time to progress.

STEVE MITCHELL / US PRESSWIRE

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	7-19	at Atlanta Falcons
09/21	L	23-27	Indianapolis Colts
09/27	L	13-23	at San Diego Chargers
10/04	W	38-10	Buffalo Bills
10/12	W	31-27	New York Jets
10/25	L	34-46	New Orleans Saints
11/01	W	30-25	at New York Jets
11/08	L	17-27	at New England Patriots
11/15	W	25-23	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/19	W	24-17	at Carolina Panthers
11/29	L	14-31	at Buffalo Bills
12/06	W	22-21	New England Patriots
12/13	W	14-10	at Jacksonville Jaguars
12/20	L	24-27	at Tennessee Titans
12/27	L	20-27	Houston Texans
01/03	L	24-30	Pittsburgh Steelers

WON 7, LOST 9

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Williams	241	1121	4.7	68	11
Brown	147	648	4.4	45	8
Polite	37	123	3.3	13	0
Hilliard	23	89	3.9	18	1
White	21	81	3.9	33	0
Ginn Jr.	7	48	6.9	22	0
Cobbs	6	36	6.0	19	0
Henne	16	32	2.0	12	1
Hartline	4	29	7.3	16	1
Bess	2	11	5.5	11	0
Pennington	3	7	2.3	4	0
Sheets	1	5	5.0	5	0
Thigpen	1	1	1.0	1	0
DOLPHINS	**509**	**2231**	**4.4**	**68**	**22**
OPPONENTS	435	1835	4.2	50	16

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bess	76	758	10.0	34	2
Camarillo	50	552	11.0	29	0
Ginn Jr.	38	454	11.9	53	1
Williams	35	264	7.5	59	2
Hartline	31	506	16.3	67	3
Fasano	31	339	10.9	27	2
Hilliard	20	158	7.9	18	2
Haynos	19	162	8.5	21	2
Brown	14	98	7.0	27	0
Polite	11	51	4.6	10	0
Sperry	3	31	10.3	13	1
Cobbs	3	23	7.7	10	0
DOLPHINS	**331**	**3170**	**9.6**	**67**	**15**
OPPONENTS	281	3754	13.4	81	23

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Henne	451	274	2878	12	14
Pennington	74	51	413	1	2
Thigpen	8	4	83	1	2
Brown	6	2	22	1	0
White	5	0	0	0	0
Williams	1	0	0	0	1
DOLPHINS	**545**	**331**	**3170**	**15**	**19**
OPPONENTS	489	281	3754	23	15

SACKS DOLPHINS 44, OPPONENTS 34

Porter 9, Starks 7, Taylor 7, Wake 5.5, Langford 2.5, Merling 2.5, Anderson 2, Bell 1.5, McDaniel 1.5, Crowder 1, Jones 1, Moses 1, Torbor 1, Wilson 1, Baker 0.5

While right tackle Vernon Carey and center Jake Grove are also solid, the guard position has recently come into question. With Smiley on his way out (the Dolphins attempted to trade him in the offseason but many teams were wary of Smiley's bad shoulder) and Donald Thomas failing to excel as quickly as anticipated, the Dolphins landed free agent Richie Incognito to help out.

It's possible Incognito, Nate Garner, third-round pick John Jerry and Thomas could all prove to be fine answers at the position. But heading into training camp, it will be among the more important spots to watch on offense. **GRADE: B**

DEFENSE

The Dolphins struggled considerably on defense last season, ranking 25th in the league in points allowed. As a result, coach Tony Sparano fired defensive coordinator Paul Pasqualoni and replaced him with Mike Nolan. But it's going to take more than a coaching change to get this unit back on track.

Expect some differences in philosophy this year, including a step away from the pure 3-4 defense that Miami has run in the past. Instead, look for the front line to penetrate more gaps, allowing the team to benefit from its athleticism.

Defensive line ▸▸ During the offseason, the Dolphins' staff decided to begin coming up with a strategy to make sure it was getting the most from its defensive front. As a result, the weapons along the defensive line could be used this season in a way that differs from the past—including more penetration than a standard 3-4 defense is used to seeing. If that's the case, the Dolphins could be able to overcome the lack of a force at nose tackle, since veteran Jason Ferguson is suspended for the first eight games of the season.

It was announced that end Randy Starks (who began to blossom last year during a breakout season that included seven sacks) would move inside, since the team isn't sold on Paul Soliai. First-round draft pick Jared Odrick will start at right defensive end.

With high hopes for Starks and Odrick, the Dolphins are expecting to get increased production from Phillip Merling and Kendall Langford. Both young players have shown occasional flashes of solid play, but the consistency needs to be stepped up in 2010. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸▸ There's a reason why Miami gave one of the most lucrative defensive deals in NFL history to Dansby: The team needs a bigger presence from the unit to help the rest of the players around him. The Dolphins said goodbye to Joey Porter and Jason Taylor this offseason, which slims down their remaining leadership and sack totals. With Dansby in the mix, it should help alleviate some of that loss.

Dansby's arrival will also make

INSIDE THE HEADSET

TONY SPARANO

As the Dolphins have grown more comfortable with the Wildcat offense, it has revealed to the league that Sparano is a man of conviction when it comes to his offense. Even on the goal line last season, with the clock dwindling down, the Dolphins used the package at times. Essentially, the more experience Sparano gets as a coach, the more comfortable he's becoming in taking chances.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	337.6	17
RUSHING	139.4	4
PASSING	198.1	20
SCORING	360	15
PUNT RETURNS	7.2	21
KICK RETURNS	23.2	12
RED ZONE TD %	61.1	4
TOTAL DEFENSE	349.3	22
AGAINST RUSH	114.7	18
AGAINST PASS	234.6	24
POINTS ALLOWED	390	25t
INTERCEPTIONS	15	16t
SACKS	44	3t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-8	26t

DOLPHINS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Jason Taylor** *(1997-2007, 2009)* — **124.0**
2. **Jeff Cross** *(1988-95)* — **59.5**
3. **Trace Armstrong** *(1995-2000)* — **56.5**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ Buffalo	SEPT. 12	1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	@ Minnesota	SEPT. 19	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	N.Y. Jets	SEPT. 26	8:20	W / L
WEEK 4	New England	OCT. 4	8:30	W / L
▸▸ WEEK 5	OPEN DATE			
WEEK 6	@ Green Bay	OCT. 17	1:00	W / L
WEEK 7	Pittsburgh	OCT. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 8	@ Cincinnati	OCT. 31	1:00	W / L
WEEK 9	@ Baltimore	NOV. 7	1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	Tennessee	NOV. 14	1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	Chicago	NOV. 18	8:20	W / L
WEEK 12	@ Oakland	NOV. 28	4:05	W / L
WEEK 13	Cleveland	DEC. 5	1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ N.Y. Jets	DEC. 12	4:15	W / L
WEEK 15	Buffalo	DEC. 19	1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	Detroit	DEC. 26	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	@ New England	JAN. 2	1:00	W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Channing Crowder better. Crowder has been too bogged down the last two seasons making sure everyone else had their job assignments, which has restricted his own ability to make big plays. And having a more powerful run-stopping presence with Crowder and Dansby inside should help outside linebacker Cameron Wake make the jump to becoming a three-down player. Until this point, Wake has been a force as a pass rusher, but he has struggled in pass and run coverage. It's going to be imperative for Wake to take advantage of the help inside. If not, he may lose his spot to second-round pick Koa Misi.

The competition for the other outside linebacker spot is likely to continue through training camp, with Quentin Moses currently taking the inside track.

GRADE: B-

Secondary ▸▸ Let's not ignore the positives: Cornerbacks Vontae Davis and Sean Smith had solid rookie campaigns in 2009 and appear to be headed for great futures. Cornerback Will Allen also returns

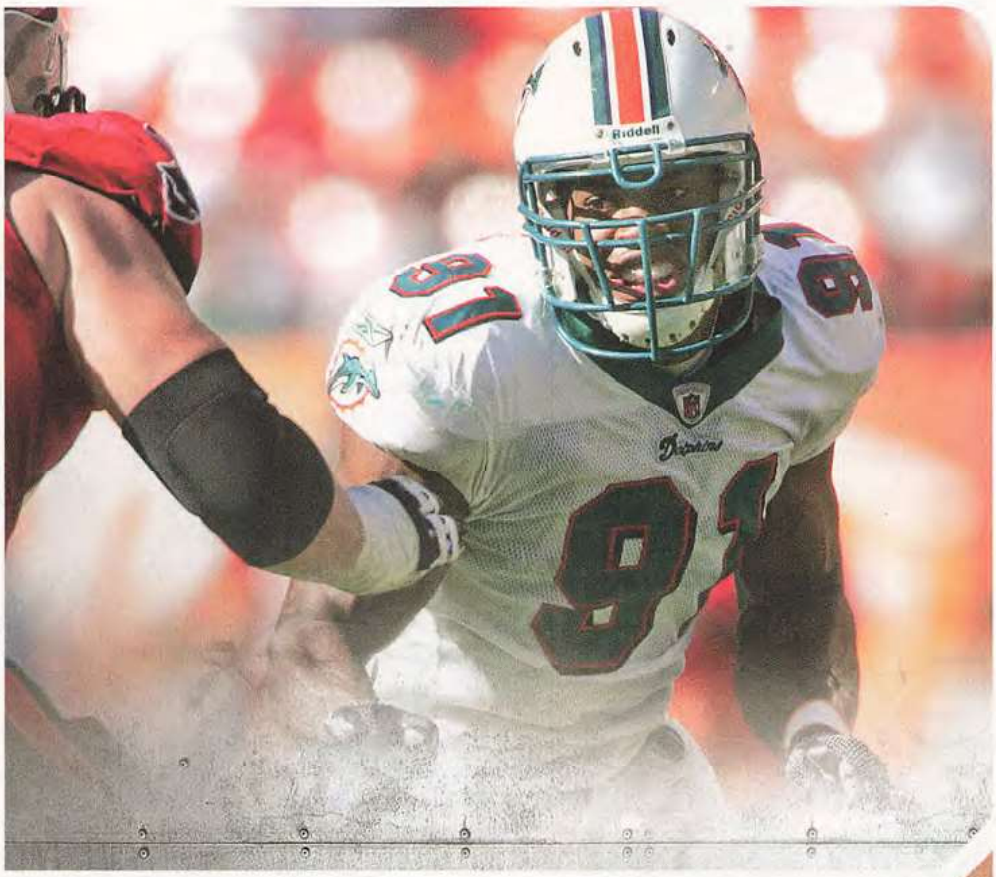
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

WR Brandon Marshall *(trade/Broncos)*, **LB Karlos Dansby** *(FA/Cardinals)*, **G Richie Incognito** *(FA/Bills)*, **LB Tim Dobbins** *(trade/Chargers)*

SUBTRACTIONS

LB Joey Porter *(FA/Cardinals)*, **LB Jason Taylor** *(FA/Jets)*, **CB Nate Jones** *(FA/Broncos)*, **LB Akin Ayodele** *(FA/Broncos)*, **S Gibril Wilson** *(FA)*, **WR Ted Ginn Jr.** *(trade/49ers)*



ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... CAMERON WAKE

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Wake did a good job during his first season showing that he's capable of playing with the big boys, but he still needs to get better as a run stopper on the first two downs of a series if he's going to live up to the expectations Miami has for him. He's an exceptional pass rusher because he's able to get so low to the ground; it becomes difficult for large tackles to get any type of leverage on him. ...

"He's also incredibly strong. But his trademark move of getting low will only work on third down, when opposing offenses are in passing mode. He needs to improve his technique and really focus on the other aspects of his game this offseason. If he can do that, his second year in the NFL should look a lot more like some of the game footage from his phenomenal years in the CFL."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Henne, Chad	QB	6-3	230	07/02/1985	3	Michigan
10 Pennington, Chad	QB	6-3	230	06/26/1976	11	Marshall
16 Thigpen, Tyler	QB	6-1	225	04/14/1984	4	Coastal Carolina
6 White, Pat	QB	6-0	190	02/25/1986	2	West Virginia

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
67 Berger, Joe	G	6-5	315	05/25/1982	6	Michigan Tech
72 Carey, Vernon	T	6-5	340	07/13/1981	7	Miami (FL)
69 Feinga, Ray	G	6-5	331	05/08/1986	1	Brigham Young
63 Gardner, Andrew	T	6-6	305	04/04/1986	2	Georgia Tech
75 Garner, Nate	T	6-7	325	01/18/1985	3	Arkansas
64 Grove, Jake	C	6-4	300	01/22/1980	7	Virginia Tech
60 Hartline, Andrew	T	6-5	297	09/01/1985	2	Central Michigan
62 Incognito, Richie	G	6-3	330	07/05/1983	6	Nebraska
77 Long, Jake	T	6-7	317	05/09/1985	3	Michigan
76 Murtha, Lydon	T	6-7	315	11/13/1985	2	Nebraska
Rogers, SirVincent	T	6-4	310	05/09/1986	1	Houston
65 Smiley, Justin	G	6-3	310	11/11/1981	7	Alabama
66 Thomas, Donald	G	6-4	310	09/25/1985	3	Connecticut
73 Tsoumpas, Dimitri	G	6-4	315	09/26/1985	1	Weber State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
23 Brown, Ronnie	RB	6-0	230	12/12/1981	6	Auburn
38 Cobbs, Patrick	RB	5-8	205	01/31/1983	5	North Texas
43 Davis, Tristan	RB	5-10	217	05/05/1986	1	Auburn
26 Hilliard, Lex	RB	5-11	240	07/30/1984	2	Montana
46 Lumbala, Rolly	RB	6-2	238	01/30/1986	0	Idaho
36 Polite, Lousaka	RB	6-0	245	09/14/1981	6	Pittsburgh
22 Sheets, Kory	RB	5-11	206	03/31/1985	2	Purdue
34 Williams, Ricky	RB	5-10	230	05/21/1977	10	Texas

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
15 Bess, Davone	WR	5-10	190	09/13/1985	3	Hawaii
83 Camarillo, Greg	WR	6-1	190	04/18/1982	5	Stanford
80 Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	255	04/20/1984	5	Notre Dame
17 Grice-Mullen, Ryan	WR	5-11	180	09/12/1986	0	Hawaii
82 Hartline, Brian	WR	6-2	186	11/22/1986	2	Ohio State
81 Haynos, Joey	TE	6-8	270	08/28/1984	3	Maryland
89 Johnson, Taurus	WR	6-1	204	04/13/1986	1	South Florida
15 Marshall, Brandon	WR	6-4	230	03/23/1984	5	UCF
86 Nalbone, John	TE	6-4	255	05/14/1986	2	Monmouth
11 Pruitt, Julius	WR	6-2	211	12/30/1985	1	Ouachita Baptist
85 Sperry, Kory	TE	6-5	244	04/10/1985	2	Colorado State
84 Turner, Patrick	WR	6-5	220	05/19/1987	2	USC

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
79 Alama-Francis, Ikaika	DE	6-5	290	12/04/1984	4	Hawaii
90 Baker, Ryan	DE	6-5	295	11/25/1984	2	Purdue
92 Denney, John	DE	6-5	255	12/13/1978	6	Brigham Young
71 Dotson, Lionel	DE	6-4	290	02/11/1985	3	Arizona
95 Ferguson, Jason	DT	6-3	310	11/28/1974	14	Georgia
57 Johnston, Brian	DE	6-4	269	05/02/1986	2	Gardner-Webb
70 Langford, Kendall	DE	6-6	295	01/27/1986	3	Hampton
78 McDaniel, Tony	DT	6-7	305	01/20/1985	5	Tennessee
97 Merling, Phillip	DE	6-4	295	04/19/1985	3	Clemson
96 Soliai, Paul	DE	6-4	355	12/30/1983	4	Utah
94 Starks, Randy	DE	6-3	305	12/14/1983	7	Maryland

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Allen, Jason	CB	6-1	200	07/05/1983	5	Tennessee
25 Allen, Will	CB	5-10	195	08/05/1978	10	Syracuse
37 Bell, Yeremiah	S	6-0	205	03/03/1978	7	Eastern Kentucky
30 Clemons, Chris	S	6-1	210	09/15/1985	2	Clemson
29 Culver, Tyrone	S	6-1	210	07/06/1983	5	Fresno State
21 Davis, Vontae	CB	5-11	203	03/27/1988	2	Illinois
31 Ness, Nate	S	6-1	190	09/05/1986	1	Arizona
41 Oglesby, Evan	CB	5-10	188	12/18/1981	5	North Alabama
24 Smith, Sean	CB	6-3	214	07/14/1987	2	Utah

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
56 Anderson, Charlie	LB	6-4	250	12/08/1981	7	Ole Miss
52 Crowder, Channing	LB	6-2	250	12/02/1983	6	Florida
58 Dansby, Karlos	LB	6-4	250	11/03/1981	7	Auburn
51 Tim Dobbins	LB	6-1	246	12/10/1982	5	Iowa State
59 Folsom, J.D.	LB	6-3	230	08/19/1984	1	Weber State
93 Moses, Quentin	LB	6-5	260	11/18/1983	4	Georgia
53 Torbor, Reggie	LB	6-2	250	01/25/1981	7	Auburn
91 Wake, Cameron	LB	6-3	250	01/30/1982	2	Penn State
50 Walden, Erik	LB	6-2	250	08/21/1985	3	Middle Tennessee

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Carpenter, Dan	K	6-2	225	11/25/1985	3	Montana
2 Fields, Brandon	P	6-5	245	05/21/1984	4	Michigan State

» TONY SPARANO, *Head coach*

Dan Henning, offensive coordinator; **Mike Nolan,** defensive coordinator; **John Bonamego,** special teams coordinator; **Dave DeGuglielmo,** offensive line; **Darren Rizzi,** assistant special teams; **James Saxon,** running backs; **George DeLeone,** tight ends; **Karl Dorrell,** wide receivers; **David Lee,** quarterbacks; **Todd Bowles,** assistant head coach/secondary; **Bill Sheridan,** linebackers; **Kacy Rodgers,** defensive line

after a season-ending knee injury in 2009. And at safety, Yeremiah Bell keeps growing into a consistent force in the secondary.

But there's one problem. Who is going to play free safety? The Dolphins waived Gibril Wilson after a terrible 2009 and were snubbed by Ryan Clark during free agency.

For now, it will be up to second-year player Chris Clemons and backup Tyrone Culver to compete for that job. Both have shown some potential, but neither has looked like full-time starters up to this point. **GRADE: C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Ginn served as an inconsistent kick returner for the Dolphins last season, varying from brilliant to timid. Now, Miami will look for more consistency, but none of the current talent on the team has near the same speed as Ginn.

Look for Cobbs to step up, although Bess (who returns punts) could also get a chance. In the kicking game, Miami continues to be solid, relying on the consistent feet of kicker Dan Carpenter and punter Brandon Fields. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

When the Dolphins finished 11-5 in 2008, it caused many to wonder whether Miami was destined for huge things long before anyone expected. Those with a more realistic understanding knew it wouldn't be that easy. But just because the Dolphins struggled in 2009 at times, it doesn't mean they are off track.

Now that the front office has invested some serious dough in a playmaker like Marshall, it seems clear the Dolphins believe the initial phases of the team's development are complete.

There are still some major holes on defense, but as young players continue to grow, Miami should begin to get back to being more like the team of '08 than last season's inconsistent bunch.

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Chad Henne threw for more than 300 yards in three of Miami's final five games. With Brandon Marshall in town, expect more passes from Henne and the Dolphins.

BUY
Brandon Marshall
WR

SELL
Davone Bess
WR

SLEEPER
Defense/Special Teams

79
FINAL GRADE

UP
STOCK REPORT

4

AFC EAST

SN PICK: 3-13

BUFFALO BILLS

Bills under new management, but results may stay the same

By Allen Wilson, *Buffalo News*

It hasn't been a million years since the Buffalo Bills were in the playoffs. It only seems that way.

The Bills haven't visited the postseason since the end of the last millennium. And in 2010, the club's record drought could extend to 11 years.

Quarterback, offensive line and wide receiver are major question marks, and the move to a 3-4 defense means changes are needed on that side of the ball as well.

Bills owner Ralph C. Wilson Jr. is hoping new general manager Buddy Nix and coach Chan Gailey will change the team's fortunes. Nix has never held the job before, but the former longtime college scout has a strong reputation as an astute talent evaluator. Hiring Gailey—the Bills' fifth head coach since 2000—didn't excite fans who wanted a bigger name, but Nix believes Gailey's past success at the professional and college level is what the Bills need.

OFFENSE

The Bills have ranked in the bottom seven in the NFL on offense for seven consecutive years. The unit was doomed to failure last season, first with the implementation of a no-huddle system and then with the firing of the offensive coordinator and starting left tackle a week before the regular season.

Gailey believes in a balanced attack with multiple personnel groupings and motion to create matchup advantages. First-year offensive coordinator Curtis Modkins will be involved in mapping out the game plan, but Gailey will be calling plays on Sundays.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ This position is under huge debate, as some believe an upgrade is necessary, while others say incumbents Trent Edwards, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Brian Brohm only need quality weapons surrounding them.

Gailey promises an open competition for the starting job, but Edwards will get every chance to win it. After showing promise his first two years, Edwards faltered last season, throwing for 1,169 yards, six touchdowns and seven interceptions in seven starts. He can be an accurate passer when given time, but Edwards needs to regain his confidence and show teammates he can be an effective leader.

If Edwards falters, he could be replaced by Fitzpatrick, whose on-field instincts make up for his lack of physical tools.

Brohm was given a chance to start last year, but didn't show much. He'll have to improve his mechanics and ability to read defenses to get another shot. **GRADE: D+**

Running backs ▸▸ An already-solid backfield got a jolt when Clemson's C.J. Spiller was drafted. At 5-11 and 196 pounds, he's not equipped for 25 carries a game, but Gailey will figure out ways to get the speedster touches out of the backfield, as a receiver and on kickoff returns.

The Bills already have a pair of proven backs in Fred Jackson and Marshawn Lynch. Jackson enjoyed a breakout third season, becoming the first player in NFL history to gain more than 1,000 yards rushing and on kickoff returns. He lacks breakaway speed but has deceptive quickness, runs hard between the tackles and rarely goes down on contact.

Lynch was a 1,000-yard rusher in each of his first two years, but didn't come close to that production in 2009 after opening the season under a three-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. The Bills have dismissed rumors that Lynch is on the trading block, but it's hard to imagine how three quality runners will coexist. **GRADE: A**

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

AARON MAYBIN — **DE/LB**

Maybin didn't have a sack as an underachieving rookie defensive end last year. But the move to outside linebacker in the 3-4 could unleash his potential as a dynamic pass rusher. If he takes advantage of his opportunities, a big year could be ahead.

BOB DONNAN / US PRESSWIRE

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Trent Edwards Ryan Fitzpatrick
FB	Corey McIntyre
RB	C.J. Spiller Fred Jackson
LT	Demetrius Bell Ed Wang
LG	Andy Levitre Kyle Calloway
C	Geoff Hangartner Christian Gaddis
RG	Eric Wood Kyle Calloway
RT	Cornell Green Kirk Chambers
TE	Shawn Nelson Derek Schouman
WR	James Hardy Steve Johnson
WR	Lee Evans Roscoe Parrish
	DEFENSE
LE	Dwan Edwards Spencer Johnson
NT	Kyle Williams Torrell Troup
RE	Marcus Stroud Alex Carrington
OLB	Aaron Maybin Chris Ellis
ILB	Andra Davis Kawika Mitchell
ILB	Paul Posluszny Arthur Moats
OLB	Chris Kelsay Danny Batten
LCB	Terrence McGee Drayton Florence
SS	Donte Whitner Bryan Scott
FS	Jairus Byrd George Wilson
RCB	Leodis McKelvin Reggie Corner
	SPECIALISTS
K	Rian Lindell
P	Brian Moorman
KR	C.J. Spiller
PR	Roscoe Parrish
LS	Garrison Sanborn

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 3-5

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/bills
www.buffalobills.com

STADIUM
Ralph Wilson Stadium
Capacity: 73,079 **Turf:** AstroPlay
Tickets: 877-BB-TICKS
Training Camp: St. John Fisher College, Pittsford, N.Y.; 585-218-7500

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

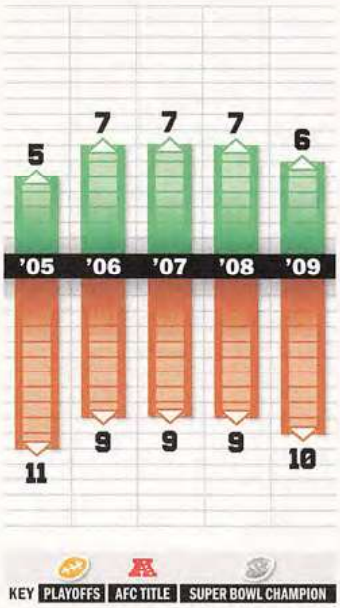
(an opponent breaks down the Bills)

"Chan Gailey was a solid choice as head coach. His hire wasn't well received up there, but he has had a lot of success as a coach in this league. With the way that team has struggled on offense, they needed someone who is strong in that area. He is very good at taking the talent he has to work with and getting the most out of it. ...

"It will be interesting to see what he can do with Trent Edwards. I thought he was going to be a terrific quarterback, but he has regressed the past two years. If Gailey can't get the best out of Edwards, it's not there to get. ...

"Their offensive line has been a mess. Everyone knows it starts up front, so until they address that they will have problems. ... I like some of their pieces on defense, especially in the secondary. Going to a 3-4 is not easy when you have a bunch of guys drafted to play a 4-3. Those players will have to be coached up to make that transition."

5-YEAR RECORD: 32-48



Receivers The Terrell Owens experiment lasted just one season, as the Bills opted not to bring him back for another year. Also gone is longtime slot receiver Josh Reed, who departed via free agency. That leaves Lee Evans and a bunch of young, unproven players.

Evans is one of the league's most dynamic deep threats, but the lack of a good quarterback has prevented him from moving into the elite class. Although he scored a team-high seven touchdowns in 2009, his 44 catches and 612 yards were the lowest totals of his six-year career.

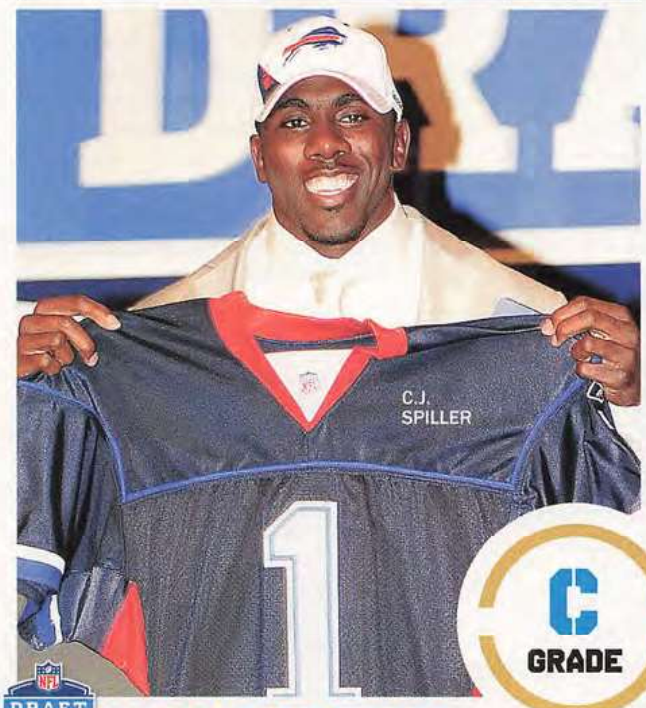
Evans figures to face a lot of double coverage until someone emerges as an effective No. 2 target. The Bills are counting on third-year pros James Hardy and Steve Johnson to step up after they combined for just three catches and seven appearances in 2009. Both have the size and leaping ability to create matchup problems. Gailey will be charged to find ways to take advantage of the diminutive speedster Roscoe Parrish.

After failing to get anything from their tight ends for years, the Bills have high hopes for Shawn Nelson, who showed as a rookie that he could be a big-time receiver who can stretch the middle of the field. **GRADE: C-**

Offensive line Injuries devastated this unit last season, forcing the team to use nine different starting combinations. The run blocking was OK, but the line allowed 46 sacks (28th in the NFL). Left tackle was a particular problem spot, starting with Langston Walker's surprising release one week before the regular season. Demetrius Bell took over before he was ready and his inexperience showed with blown assignments and penalties.

The Bills remain high on Bell, who has good, yet undeveloped, physical tools. Free-agent right tackle Cornell Green replaces Brad Butler, who retired. Green has good size and above-average quickness and agility, but has struggled in the past

DRAFT REPORT



2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	9	C.J. Spiller	RB	5-11	196	Clemson
2	9	Torrell Troup	DT	6-3	314	UCF
3	8	Alex Carrington	DE	6-5	285	Arkansas State
4	9	Marcus Easley	WR	6-3	210	Connecticut
5	9	Ed Wang	OT	6-5	314	Virginia Tech
6	9	Arthur Moats	LB	6-0	246	James Madison
6	23	Danny Batten	LB	6-3	246	South Dakota State
7	2	Levi Brown	QB	6-4	229	Troy
7	9	Kyle Calloway	OT	6-7	323	Iowa

Drafting **C.J. Spiller** at No. 9 was a great move, because his ability to make big plays will only help Buffalo's offense. Additionally, with the Bills' struggles at quarterback, Spiller could catch screen passes, which would slow opponents' pass rushes. **Torrell Troup** is a thick-bodied defensive tackle who could be a productive starter. In the third round the Bills "drafted up" to get **Alex Carrington**, a good athlete who is best suited to play defensive end in Buffalo's 3-4 scheme. However, Carrington is a gamble due to his inconsistency. Fourth-round selection **Marcus Easley** is an explosive receiver who flashed big-play ability at Connecticut, but he will need to develop.

The Bills got two steals late in the draft in quarterback **Levi Brown** and offensive tackle **Kyle Calloway**. Brown played in an offensive scheme similar to Florida's and could have more NFL success than Tim Tebow, while Calloway's height, long arms and toughness will make him a key backup who could become a starter in time at tackle.

TOM/SSO DEROSA

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/14	L	24-25	at New England Patriots
09/20	W	33-20	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
09/27	L	7-27	New Orleans Saints
10/04	L	10-38	at Miami Dolphins
10/11	L	3-6	Cleveland Browns
10/18	W	16-13	at New York Jets
10/25	W	20-9	at Carolina Panthers
11/01	L	10-31	Houston Texans
11/15	L	17-41	at Tennessee Titans
11/22	L	15-18	at Jacksonville Jaguars
11/29	W	31-14	Miami Dolphins
12/03	L	13-19	New York Jets
12/13	W	16-10	at Kansas City Chiefs
12/20	L	10-17	New England Patriots
12/27	L	3-31	at Atlanta Falcons
01/03	W	30-7	Indianapolis Colts

WON 6, LOST 10

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jackson	237	1062	4.5	43	2
Lynch	120	450	3.8	47	2
Fitzpatrick	31	141	4.5	31	1
Edwards	14	106	7.6	20	0
Owens	6	54	9.0	29	1
McIntyre	5	34	6.8	25	0
Parrish	2	4	2.0	9	0
Brohm	3	-3	-1.0	-1	0
Jenkins	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
BILLS	424	1867	4.4	47	6
OPPONENTS	535	2501	4.7	76	19

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Owens	55	829	15.1	98	5
Jackson	46	371	8.1	21	2
Evans	44	612	13.9	50	7
Lynch	28	179	6.4	35	0
Reed	27	291	10.8	29	1
Nelson	17	156	9.2	25	1
Schouman	9	103	11.4	27	0
Fine	9	64	7.1	11	0
McIntyre	7	55	7.9	18	0
Stupar	6	40	6.7	17	0
Parrish	3	34	11.3	16	0
Johnson	2	10	5.0	5	0
Denney	1	25	25.0	25	1
Klopfenstein	1	11	11.0	11	0
Hardy	1	9	9.0	9	0
BILLS	256	2515	9.8	98	17
OPPONENTS	295	2948	10.0	52	14

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Fitzpatrick	227	127	1422	9	10
Edwards	183	110	1169	6	7
Brohm	29	17	146	0	2
Jackson	1	1	27	1	0
Moorman	1	1	25	1	0
BILLS	441	256	2515	17	19
OPPONENTS	519	295	2948	14	28

SACKS BILLS 32, OPPONENTS 46

Schobel 10, Kelsay 5, Williams 4, Denney 2, Johnson 2, Scott 2, Stroud 2, Wilson 2, Draft 1, Posluszny 1

KEVIN HOFFMAN / US PRESSWIRE

against speed rushers. Fifth-round pick Ed Wang has good size, strength and footwork, but needs grooming to become a future starter. Kirk Chambers has started at both tackle spots in the past.

The interior of the line is set with right guard Eric Wood expected to be recovered from a broken leg. He was the team's best blocker before the midseason injury. Left guard Andy Levitre has good feet and moves well enough to make blocks on the second level. Center Geoff Hangartner isn't dominant, but he's effective using his hands and maintaining good balance at the point of attack. **GRADE: C-**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

CHAN GAILEY

Gailey's approach is to establish a balanced offense while using different personnel groupings and pre-snap movements designed to disguise its true intentions. On defense, he has an attacking style with a variety of blitz packages. Gailey wants a defense that is disruptive and aggressive, but also disciplined.

DEFENSE

The Bills have joined the wave of NFL teams moving to a 3-4 defense. New coordinator George Edwards knows the scheme well, having coached linebackers in Miami for five years.

Edwards wants to play an aggressive, attacking style with multiple blitz packages designed to disrupt offenses. He also will use some 4-3 looks, particularly on passing downs.

Defensive line The move to a 3-4 scheme will take some adjustment because most of the team's linemen are better suited to play in a 4-3. The Bills did sign an experienced 3-4 end in Dwan Edwards. Former defensive tackles Marcus Stroud and Spencer Johnson join Edwards at the end position, giving the team a solid rotation.

Kyle Williams, the Bills' best lineman last season, is a prototypical three-technique tackle in the 4-3. But the Bills plan to see how he handles playing nose tackle.

John McCargo has size but there are questions about his desire and intensity, so it's uncertain if he fits as a nose guard or end. **GRADE: C+**

Linebackers The Bills should have a solid three-man rotation at inside linebacker with Paul Posluszny, Kawika Mitchell and Andra Davis.

Posluszny has missed games with injuries in two of his first three seasons, but is productive when healthy and should carry that to the new scheme. Mitchell, who is coming off a season-ending quadriceps injury, played outside linebacker the past two years, but has experience playing inside. Davis was a good free-agent pickup because of his background in the 3-4.

Moving to a 3-4 could be the best thing to happen to Aaron Maybin. Drafted 11th overall last year to play defensive end, he was projected as a 3-4 linebacker coming out of Penn State. With outstanding quickness and long arms, he could rebound from a disappointing rookie year and become the pass rusher the team envisions.

Maybin's improvement is even more important with Aaron Schobel's possible retirement, which was unresolved at press time. Ranked second in franchise history in career sacks, Schobel would have to play outside linebacker, but the transition should be easy given his strength.

It might be a tougher adjustment for

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	273.9	30
RUSHING	116.7	16
PASSING	157.2	30
SCORING	258	28
PUNT RETURNS	6.6	26
KICK RETURNS	23.7	10
RED ZONE TD %	31.6	32
TOTAL DEFENSE	340.6	19
AGAINST RUSH	156.3	30
AGAINST PASS	184.3	2
POINTS ALLOWED	326	16
INTERCEPTIONS	28	2
SACKS	32	18t
TURNOVER DIFF.	3	11t

BILLS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1	**Bruce Smith** *(1985-99)*	171.0
2	**Aaron Schobel** *(2001-present)*	78.0
3	**Phil Hansen** *(1991-2001)*	61.5

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Miami
SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 2 @ Green Bay
SEPT. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 3 @ New England
SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 4 N.Y. Jets
OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 5 Jacksonville
OCT. 10 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 6 OPEN DATE

WEEK 7 @ Baltimore
OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 8 @ Kansas City
OCT. 31 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 9 Chicago*
NOV. 7 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 10 Detroit
NOV. 14 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 11 @ Cincinnati
NOV. 21 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 12 Pittsburgh
NOV. 28 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 13 @ Minnesota
DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 14 Cleveland
DEC. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 15 @ Miami
DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 16 New England
DEC. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 17 @ N.Y. Jets
JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

*In Toronto
Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Chris Kelsay. He wasn't a great pass rusher as a lineman, so it remains to be seen if he'll bring pressure from a standing position.

Keith Ellison, Nic Harris, Jon Corto and converted ends Chris Ellis and Danny Batten are fighting for backup spots at outside linebacker, while the Bills think rookie end Arthur Moats, another college defensive end, has the instincts and range to move inside.

GRADE: C

Secondary ▸▸ Despite being riddled by injuries, the Bills showed their depth by finishing second in the NFL in pass defense. Now healthy, this is Buffalo's deepest and most talented unit. The team is especially loaded at cornerback with Terrence McGee and Leodis McKelvin.

McGee is one of the most underrated cover men in the league. At 5-9, he gives up a lot of size, but he has good closing speed. McKelvin returns after missing most of his second year with a broken ankle. He will take chances, but his speed allows him to recover from mistakes.

Drayton Florence is the team's biggest corner (6-0, 195 pounds), and he uses his size to jam receivers and disrupt their routes.

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

DT Dwan Edwards *(FA/Ravens)*, **OT Cornell Green** *(FA/Raiders)*, **LB Andra Davis** *(FA/Broncos)*, **TE Michael Matthews** *(FA/Lions)*

SUBTRACTIONS

WR Terrell Owens *(FA)*, **OT Brad Butler** *(retired)*, **WR Josh Reed** *(FA)*, **G Richie Incognito** *(FA/Dolphins)*, **OT Jonathan Scott** *(FA/Steelers)*, **WR C.J. Hawthorne** *(FA)*, **DE Cory Mace** *(FA)*

JEFF SINER / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... LEE EVANS

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Speed. That's what I think about with Lee Evans. There are some guys who can outrun your coverage and he's one of them. The best way to defend Lee is by being very physical with him. He's a tough guy, but not very big, so if you get a good jam on him at the line of scrimmage, he won't be able to get into his route as quickly.

"Even with all that, he's still a tough cover. He is one of the best at setting up with a double move, so as a cornerback you have to be disciplined because if you bite on a route, he'll give you a stutter step and, boom, he's behind you. He doesn't get the love around the league that he should, because he's played on some bad teams. If he had a legit quarterback throwing him the ball, there is no telling what he could do."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4	Brohm, Brian	QB	6-3	223	09/23/1985	3	Louisville
5	Edwards, Trent	QB	6-4	231	10/30/1983	4	Stanford
14	Fitzpatrick, Ryan	QB	6-2	225	11/24/1982	5	Harvard

OFFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
77	Bell, Demetrius	T	6-5	307	05/03/1984	3	Northwestern State
73	Chambers, Kirk	T	6-7	315	03/19/1979	6	Stanford
61	Gaddis, Christian	C	6-1	300	10/05/1984	3	Villanova
74	Green, Cornell	T	6-6	315	08/25/1976	11	UCF
63	Hangartner, Geoff	C	6-5	301	04/22/1982	6	Texas A&M
79	Hennessey, Nick	T	6-5	291	07/02/1986	1	Colgate
67	Levitre, Andy	G	6-2	305	05/15/1986	2	Oregon State
69	Meredith, Jamon	T	6-5	304	05/11/1986	2	South Carolina
76	Ramsey, Andre	T	6-5	322	07/24/1987	1	Ball State
66	Watkins, Jason	T	6-6	325	07/10/1985	1	Florida
70	Wood, Eric	G	6-4	315	03/18/1986	2	Louisville

RUNNING BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44	Ferguson, Rodney	RB	5-11	188	08/25/1986	1	New Mexico
22	Jackson, Fred	RB	6-1	215	02/20/1981	4	Coe
23	Lynch, Marshawn	RB	5-11	215	04/22/1986	4	California
38	McIntyre, Corey	RB	6-0	258	01/25/1979	6	West Virginia
39	Mendenhall, Walter	RB	6-0	227	01/22/1986	0	Illinois State

RECEIVERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
83	Evans, Lee	WR	5-10	197	03/11/1981	7	Wisconsin
84	Hardy, James	WR	6-5	220	12/24/1985	3	Indiana
15	Huggins, Felton	WR	6-2	186	02/15/1983	1	Southeastern Louisiana
16	Jackson, Chad	WR	6-1	215	03/06/1985	4	Florida
13	Johnson, Steve	WR	6-2	202	07/22/1986	3	Kentucky
87	Klopfenstein, Joe	TE	6-5	262	11/09/1983	5	Colorado
82	Matthews, Michael	TE	6-4	270	10/09/1983	4	Georgia Tech
89	Nelson, Shawn	TE	6-5	240	10/05/1985	2	Southern Miss
11	Parrish, Roscoe	WR	5-9	178	07/16/1982	6	Miami (FL)
80	Schouman, Derek	TE	6-2	223	03/11/1985	4	Boise State
88	Stupar, Jonathan	TE	6-3	254	07/27/1984	2	Virginia

DEFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
72	Duncan, Rashaad	DT	6-2	315	12/10/1986	1	Pittsburgh
98	Edwards, Dwan	DT	6-3	315	05/16/1981	7	Oregon State
93	Ellis, Chris	DE	6-4	261	02/11/1985	3	Virginia Tech
64	Favorite, Marlon	DT	6-1	295	06/22/1986	1	LSU
75	Harvey, Lonnie	DT	6-3	342	01/20/1987	1	Morgan State
91	Johnson, Spencer	DT	6-3	286	12/12/1981	7	Auburn
90	Kelsay, Chris	DE	6-4	261	10/31/1979	8	Nebraska
58	Maybin, Aaron	DE	6-4	250	04/06/1988	2	Penn State
97	McCargo, John	DT	6-2	307	08/19/1983	5	N.C. State
94	Schobel, Aaron	DE	6-4	243	09/01/1977	10	TCU
99	Stroud, Marcus	DT	6-6	310	06/25/1978	10	Georgia
95	Williams, Kyle	DT	6-1	306	06/10/1983	5	LSU

DEFENSIVE BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
31	Byrd, Jairus	S	5-10	200	10/07/1986	2	Oregon
27	Corner, Reggie	CB	5-9	175	11/17/1983	3	Akron
29	Florence, Drayton	CB	6-0	195	12/19/1980	8	Tuskegee
47	Harris, Cary	S	5-11	187	03/22/1987	2	USC
25	Lankster, Ellis	CB	5-9	190	06/03/1987	2	West Virginia
24	McGee, Terrence	CB	5-9	198	10/14/1980	8	Northwestern State
28	McKelvin, Leodis	CB	5-10	184	09/01/1985	3	Troy
40	Sargeant, Lydell	CB	6-1	187	01/31/1987	1	Penn State
43	Scott, Bryan	S	6-1	219	04/13/1981	8	Penn State
20	Whitner, Donte	S	5-10	208	07/24/1985	5	Ohio State
37	Wilson, George	S	6-0	212	03/14/1981	5	Arkansas
26	Youboty, Ashton	CB	5-11	189	07/07/1984	5	Ohio State

LINEBACKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
57	Corto, Jon	LB	6-1	220	09/03/1984	3	Sacred Heart
54	Davis, Andra	LB	6-1	250	12/23/1978	9	Florida
56	Ellison, Keith	LB	6-0	229	02/06/1984	5	Oregon State
54	Harris, Nic	LB	6-2	232	12/06/1986	2	Oklahoma
96	Manalac, Ryan	LB	6-0	235	10/20/1985	1	Cincinnati
55	Mitchell, Kawika	LB	6-1	253	10/10/1979	8	South Florida
51	Posluszny, Paul	LB	6-1	238	10/10/1984	4	Penn State
65	Sanborn, Garrison	LB	6-0	240	07/31/1985	2	Florida State

KICKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9	Lindell, Rian	K	6-3	233	01/20/1977	11	Washington State
8	Moorman, Brian	P	6-0	172	02/05/1976	10	Pittsburg State

» **CHAN GAILEY,** *Head coach*
Curtis Modkins, offensive coordinator/running backs; **George Edwards**, defensive coordinator; **Bruce DeHaven**, special teams coordinator; **Joe D'Alessandris**, offensive line; **Bobby Johnson**, offensive line assistant; **Giff Smith**, defensive line; **Bob Bicknell**, tight ends; **Stan Hixon**, wide receivers; **George Cortez**, quarterbacks; **George Catavolos**, secondary; **Stan Kwan**, special teams assistant; **DeMontie Cross**, inside linebackers; **Bob Sanders**, outside linebackers

JAY DROWNS / SN

Reggie Corner is the ideal nickel back because he is quick enough to cover slot receivers.

Free safety Jairus Byrd was a revelation, setting a Bills rookie record with nine interceptions (which also tied for first in the NFL). With Byrd holding down the free safety position, Donte Whitner will return to strong safety.

Injuries forced George Wilson into a lot of action, and he responded with a career year, finishing second on the team in tackles (103) and interceptions (4). Backup safety Bryan Scott is a physical player who is stout against the run. **GRADE: B+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Coordinator Bobby April's departure was a big blow and leaves new coach Bruce DeHaven with a tough act to follow. But DeHaven inherits a solid kicking game led by punter Brian Moorman and kicker Rian Lindell.

One of the game's elite since 2001, Moorman had his best statistical year in 2009. Lindell has been consistent during his time in Buffalo and made 28 of 33 field goals last season. Long snapper Garrison Sanborn had a strong rookie year.

The Bills are loaded with return specialists in Spiller, Jackson, McKelvin and Parrish. **GRADE: A**

BOTTOM LINE

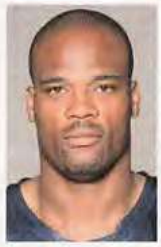
The Bills face a difficult task in climbing out of the AFC East cellar. They could be improved, but will likely remain in fourth place because their division rivals are all strong playoff contenders in 2010. Gailey's offensive reputation suggests the Bills should be able to move the ball and score more often, but a lot of that will be determined by who's under center.

While the defense has some good pieces, it is unknown how quickly the players will adapt to the 3-4. Nix and Gailey believe the Bills aren't far away from being winners again, but it would be wise not to expect too much too soon.

FANTASY SPIN
www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Despite seven TDs, Lee Evans set a career low in yards (612) last year. The departure of Terrell Owens should help him get more consistent targets.

BUY
C.J. Spiller
RB



SELL
Fred Jackson
RB

SLEEPER
Defense/Special Teams

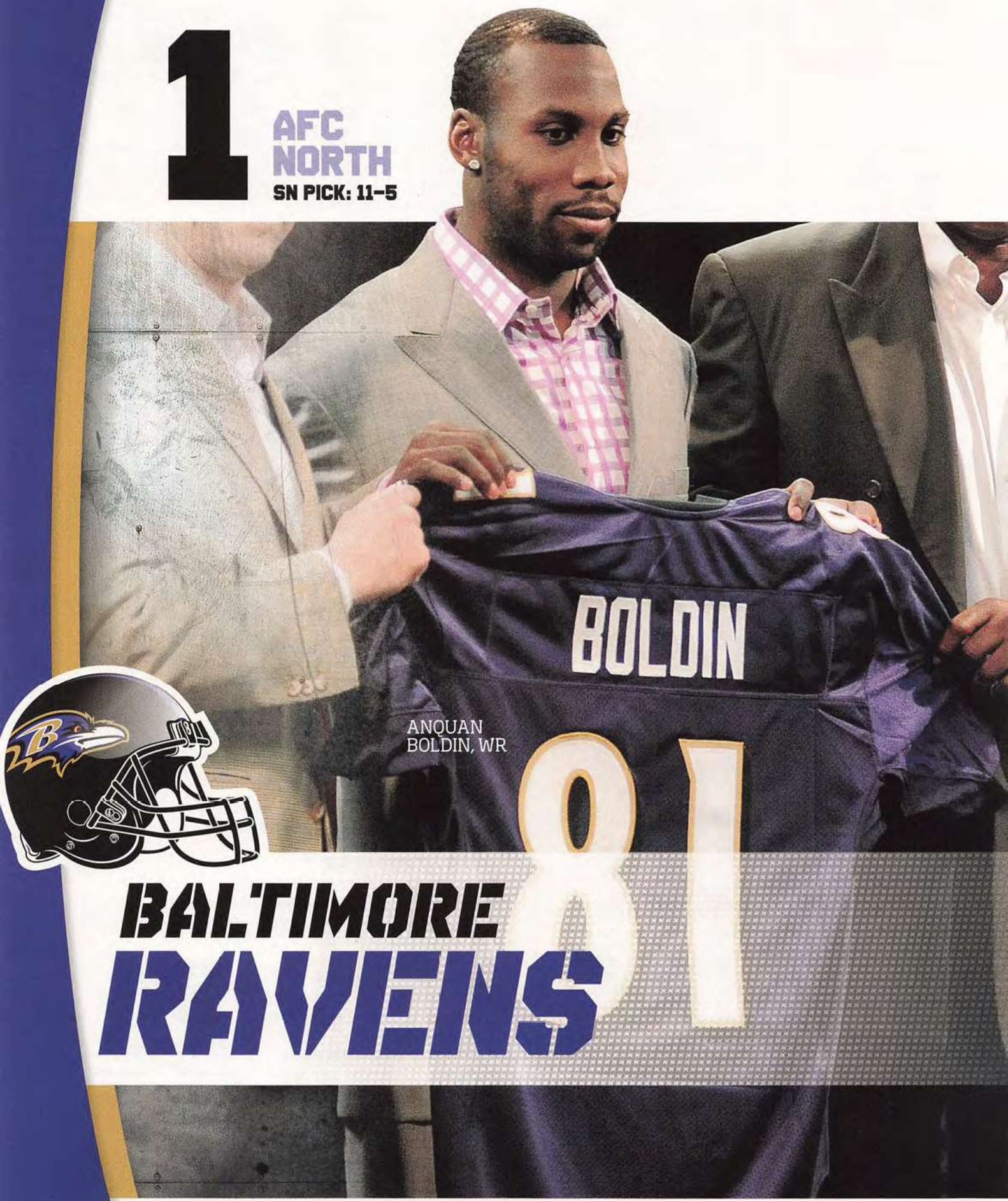
65
FINAL GRADE

UP
STOCK REPORT

1

AFC NORTH

SN PICK: 11-5



ANQUAN BOLDIN, WR

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Given needed firepower, it's now Flacco's time to produce

By Mike Preston, *Baltimore Sun*

The onus is now on Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco.

After two straight playoff appearances, including one in the 2008 AFC championship game, Baltimore has put the burden of winning its second Super Bowl title in team history on the shoulders of its third-year quarterback.

The Ravens have upgraded their passing game with several new receivers, and the additions, along with an already-stout defense, might be enough to get the team over the playoff hump and into the Super Bowl.

Ownership has big expectations for their franchise quarterback, who played well in regular season games in 2009 but struggled in the postseason.

"I don't think there is any doubt that he's the key to any kind of growth in the system," says Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti of Flacco. "To some degree, he was maligned a little bit for not making a bigger step, but I think that what he did in his first year kind of set some unrealistic expectations. Roster stuff, that's really not my gig, but I do know that there's a lot of attention on Joe.

"And Joe just looks like the kind of guy that's ready to do what he has to do to get better. And, if we pushed him out of his box a little bit this last year—and that might have been the perception—then maybe some shortcomings showed up that didn't show up in his first year, because we were not asking that much of him. So this next year, it's time for him to do the things we know he's capable of doing."

OFFENSE

The Ravens will remain a run-oriented offense, but they want more balance and explosive plays this season. Translation: Baltimore will throw downfield more often in 2010.

Baltimore added receivers Anquan Boldin and Donte' Stallworth during the offseason to help achieve its goal. Boldin is a legitimate No. 1 receiver, while Stallworth has outstanding speed. Having those two on the field should open up the running game for the Ravens, as well as give Flacco the weapons he needs to be a big-time quarterback.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ There are no more excuses for Flacco. The Ravens haven't had receivers this talented since Derrick Alexander and Michael Jackson in the mid-1990s.

Last season, Flacco was never able to realize his potential because the Ravens didn't have wideouts who could get separation. Now they do with a stable that includes Boldin, Stallworth, Derrick Mason and tight end Todd Heap.

Only time will tell if Flacco can deliver the ball in tight windows, especially across the middle and inside the red zone. In two years, he hasn't proven he can do it with consistency. Flacco also tends to get sloppy with his throwing motion, which causes some of his passes to sail. He spent the offseason working with a Major League Baseball coach to fix the problem.

GRADE: B

Running backs ▸▸ Ray Rice emerged as one of the top backs in the NFL last season when he rushed for 1,339 yards and caught 78 passes for 702 yards. Rice is a slasher who can also run with power. Out of the backfield, he is impossible to cover one-on-one with a linebacker.

Should Rice need a break, the Ravens' sideline is deep. Veteran Willis McGahee, a former Pro Bowler who had 544 rushing yards in 2009, will be the main backup. McGahee was exceptional in short-yardage situations, scoring a franchise-record-tying

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

DANNELL ELLERBE — LB

Ellerbe has great physical attributes. He's a thumper against the run and has a passion for the game, much like Ray Lewis. Once he learns all the nuances of pass defense, the former Georgia Bulldog could become a force.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Joe Flacco Troy Smith
FB	Le'Ron McClain Edgar Jones
RB	Ray Rice Willis McGahee
LT	Jared Gaither Oniel Cousins
LG	Ben Grubbs Chris Chester
C	Matt Birk David Hale
RG	Marshal Yanda Chris Chester
RT	Michael Oher Tony Moll
TE	Todd Heap Ed Dickson
WR	Anquan Boldin Donte' Stallworth
WR	Derrick Mason Mark Clayton
	DEFENSE
DE	Cory Redding Trevor Pryce
DT	Haloti Ngata Kelly Talavou
DT	Kelly Gregg Terrence Cody
DE	Terrell Suggs Paul Kruger
OLB	Dannell Ellerbe Tavares Gooden
MLB	Ray Lewis Jameel McClain
OLB	Jarret Johnson Sergio Kindle
LCB	Lardarius Webb Chris Carr
SS	Dawan Landry Haruki Nakamura
FS	Ed Reed Tom Zbikowski
RCB	Domonique Foxworth Fabian Washington
	SPECIALISTS
K	Billy Cundiff
P	Sam Koch
KR	Jalen Parmele
PR	Chris Carr
LS	Matt Katula

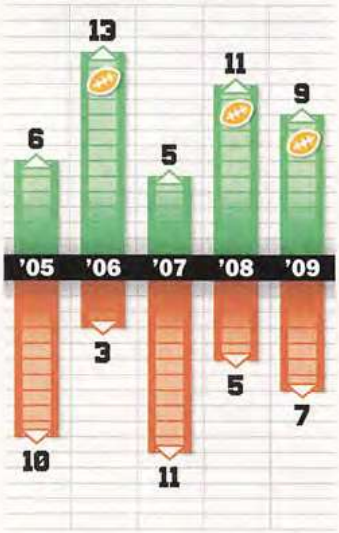
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 9-7 **HOME:** 6-2

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/ravens
www.baltimoreravens.com

STADIUM
M&T Bank Stadium
Capacity: 71,008 **Turf:** Artificial
Tickets: 410-261-7283
Training Camp: McDaniel College, Westminster, Md.; 410-261-7283

OPPOSITE PAGE: AP PHOTO / STEVE RUARK

5-YEAR RECORD: 44-36



KEY PLAYOFFS | AFC TITLE | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Anquan Boldin is a draft-day bargain. He managed 84 receptions for 1,024 yards and five touchdowns in 2009. Expect his touchdowns to rise this year.

BUY
Ray Rice
RB

SELL
Todd Heap
TE

SLEEPER
Joe Flacco
QB

14 touchdowns.

The Ravens can also use fullback Le'Ron McClain as a tailback if needed, but he was named to his second straight Pro Bowl last season as a lead blocker. McClain works best as a change-of-pace back in the second half when the Ravens get a big lead. **GRADE: A**

Receivers ▸▸ Baltimore revamped this group to make it faster and stronger with Stallworth (the faster) and Boldin (the stronger). The Ravens' go-to receiver will be Boldin, who doesn't have great speed but is tough and will make the catch over the middle. He gives Flacco a legitimate weapon inside the red zone and can create yards after the catch.

Stallworth, on the other hand, has the speed to beat defenders. Look for him to play in the slot, where he should take advantage of a No. 3 corner or safety regularly.

The Ravens still have Mason on the outside and Heap at tight end. Mason should reap the benefits of Boldin's presence, because he'll get double-teamed less often. Heap's performance has dropped in recent seasons, but the additions of Stallworth and Boldin should help him get open. The Ravens selected Oregon's Ed Dickson in the third round to back up Heap. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸▸ After playing together for a few years, this group should be ready to peak, especially with two first-round draft picks becoming starters. It's an agile and versatile unit, one that should be balanced in both run and pass blocking.

The Ravens have two giant, athletic tackles in Jared Gaither on the left side and Michael Oher on the right. Gaither had trouble handling speed rushers on the outside last year, but the hope is he'll succeed in 2010 after a strong season in the weight room. Conversely, Oher had a stellar rookie season and, using his brute strength, dominated the running game. There were rumblings in the offseason that the two could switch sides.

The Ravens are quick and athletic at guard with Ben Grubbs on the left and either Marshal Yanda or Chris Chester on the right. Veteran Matt Birk, who played well late in the season last year, returns at center. The two major problems facing this unit are depth and physicality. **GRADE: B**

DEFENSE

A year ago, defensive coordinator Greg Mattison was a throwback to the old days when teams played read-and-react defense.

But by the end of last season, Mattison had learned to attack instead of being attacked. Look for the Ravens to pick up where they left off. They will continue to run defenses out of the 4-3 and 3-4, moving players around a lot after the snap of the ball. One main goal for the Ravens

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	351.2	13
RUSHING	137.5	5
PASSING	213.7	18
SCORING	391	9
PUNT RETURNS	7.4	20
KICK RETURNS	26.2	2
RED ZONE TD %	52.6	11
TOTAL DEFENSE	300.5	3
AGAINST RUSH	93.3	5
AGAINST PASS	207.3	8t
POINTS ALLOWED	261	3
INTERCEPTIONS	22	5t
SACKS	32	18t
TURNOVER DIFF.	10	4

RAVENS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Peter Boulware** *(1997-2005)* — **70.0**
2. **Terrell Suggs** *(2003-present)* — **57.5**
3. **Michael McCrary** *(1997-2002)* — **51.0**

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Ravens)*

"On the surface, the two biggest questions are how well Anquan Boldin and Donte' Stallworth fit into the offense, and can Joe Flacco get them the ball? I assume the Ravens are tired of Flacco throwing those comeback routes to Derrick Mason, and now he has weapons.

"Then you look over at the defense, and you see an aging Ray Lewis. They did not get as much production out of those young linebackers as they would have liked a year ago, except (Dannell) Ellerbe. They also have some guys they lost on the defensive line like Dwan Edwards and Justin Bannan, and they have to replace those guys. ...

"The underlying issue is having cover guys in the secondary, which is really just as important as Flacco throwing the ball. Also, you have to wonder about Ed Reed and his neck injury. That is no joke. There is always going to be a fear factor with Ed. You have to question his availability and durability. Those are the three or four major issues facing the Ravens."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	38-24	Kansas City Chiefs
09/20	W	31-26	at San Diego Chargers
09/27	W	34-3	Cleveland Browns
10/04	L	21-27	at New England Patriots
10/11	L	14-17	Cincinnati Bengals
10/18	L	31-33	at Minnesota Vikings
11/01	W	30-7	Denver Broncos
11/08	L	7-17	at Cincinnati Bengals
11/16	W	16-0	at Cleveland Browns
11/22	L	15-17	Indianapolis Colts
11/29	W	20-17	Pittsburgh Steelers
12/07	L	14-27	at Green Bay Packers
12/13	W	48-3	Detroit Lions
12/20	W	31-7	Chicago Bears
12/27	L	20-23	at Pittsburgh Steelers
01/03	W	21-13	at Oakland Raiders

WON 9, LOST 7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rice	254	1339	5.3	59	7
McGahee	109	544	5	77	12
McClain	46	180	3.9	20	2
Flacco	35	56	1.6	10	0
Smith	8	31	3.9	15	1
Clayton	4	28	7	12	0
Parmele	5	17	3.4	7	0
Heap	1	2	2	2	0
Mason	1	2	2	2	0
Washington	1	1	1	1	0
Lawrence	4	0	0	4	0
RAVENS	**468**	**2200**	**4.7**	**77**	**22**
OPPONENTS	435	1492	3.4	58	8

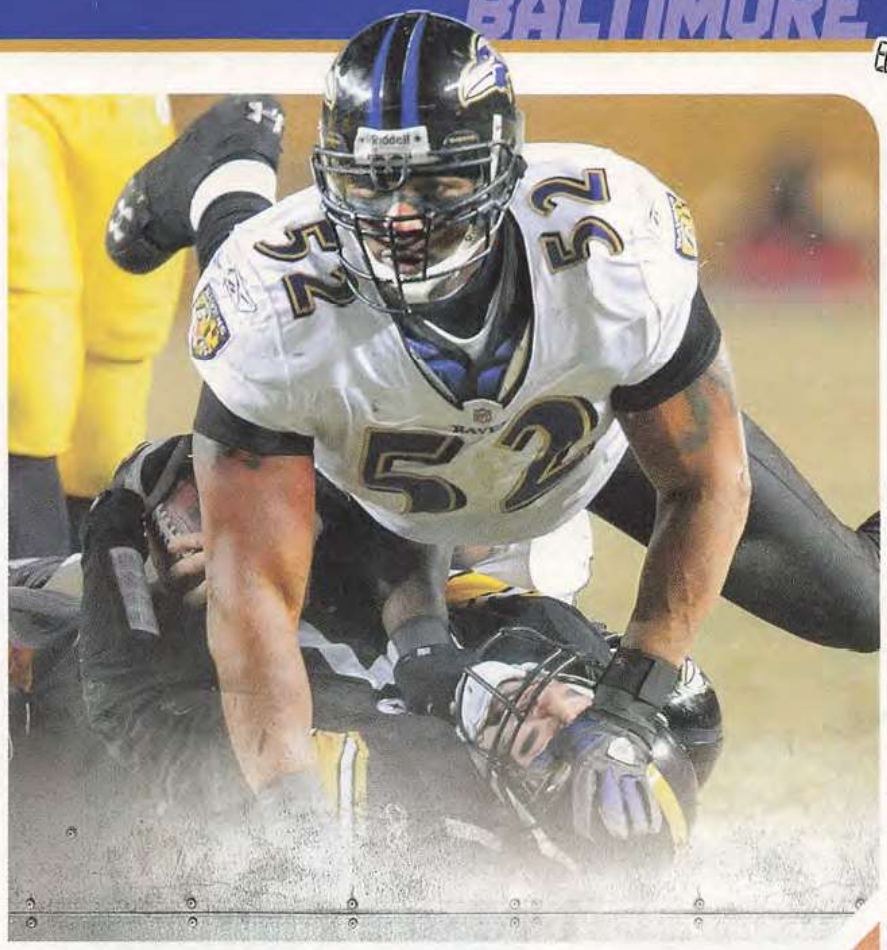
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rice	78	702	9	63	1
Mason	73	1028	14.1	72	7
Heap	53	593	11.2	31	6
Clayton	34	480	14.1	54	2
Washington	34	431	12.7	28	2
McClain	21	141	6.7	19	0
McGahee	15	85	5.7	14	2
Williams	8	142	17.8	34	1
Smith	2	31	15.5	26	0
Jones	1	8	8	8	0
Lawrence	1	4	4	4	0
Oher	1	-8	-8	-8	0
RAVENS	**321**	**3419**	**10.7**	**72**	**21**
OPPONENTS	306	3316	10.8	81	17

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Flacco	499	315	3613	21	12
Smith	9	5	24	0	1
Clayton	1	1	0	0	0
Rice	1	0	0	0	0
RAVENS	**510**	**321**	**3419**	**21**	**13**
OPPONENTS	524	306	3316	17	22

SACKS — RAVENS 32, OPPONENTS 36

Pryce 6.5, Johnson 6, Suggs 4.5, Barnes 3, Gregg 3, Lewis 3, Carr 1.5, Ngata 1.5, Ayanbadejo 1, Edwards 1, Webb 1

DON WRIGHT / US PRESSWIRE



THE BOOK ON ... RAY LEWIS

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Every year Ray Lewis leads the Ravens in tackles, but you don't have to game-plan for Lewis these days like you did in the past. The best way to attack Lewis is to attack either nose guard Kelly Gregg or defensive tackle Haloti Ngata. It sounds strange, but Lewis isn't the player he used to be. He can still run sideline to sideline but doesn't cover as much ground. Once he gets those paws on you, he is still a pretty good tackler. ...

"But Ray Lewis doesn't shed blocks like he used to. He can't shock offensive linemen anymore with his arm strength. He has become smarter now, a lot more shifty, where he can maneuver and either work around or under offensive linemen. The key, though, is getting to him. Ngata and Gregg are like bodyguards. They keep offensive guards and centers off Lewis, and the best way to attack him now, especially off the perimeter, is to have tackles block down on him. ...

"If you can get near Lewis now, you can slow him down, because he doesn't want to take on linemen. He has become a liability in passing situations, but the Ravens did a good job of hiding him late last season deep in the middle of the field, especially inside the red zone. Overall, he is still one of the best in the NFL."

in 2010 is to put more pressure on the quarterback.

Defensive line ▸▸ In the past, general manager Ozzie Newsome always had proven backups here, but that's not the case this season. Gone are tackles Justin Bannan and Dwan Edwards.

The Ravens have solid starters at tackle with Kelly Gregg and Haloti Ngata. There might not be a better run-stuffing tandem in the league. Gregg rebounded from major knee surgery in 2008 to have an outstanding year in '09, and Ngata is a load who often commands double teams.

But behind that duo, the Ravens don't have any proven players. Both Brandon McKinney and Kelly Talavou are wide bodies, but have little experience and struggled to maintain good playing weights. That's also the problem with second-round pick Terrence Cody, who showed up at the Senior Bowl weighing 370 pounds.

To replace Edwards, the Ravens

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ N.Y. Jets
SEPT. 13 | 7:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 2 @ Cincinnati
SEPT. 19 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 3 Cleveland
SEPT. 26 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 4 @ Pittsburgh
OCT. 3 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 5 Denver
OCT. 10 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 6 @ New England
OCT. 17 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 7 Buffalo
OCT. 24 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 8 OPEN DATE

WEEK 9 Miami
NOV. 7 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 10 @ Atlanta
NOV. 11 | 8:20
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 11 @ Carolina
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 12 Tampa Bay
NOV. 28 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 13 Pittsburgh
DEC. 5 | 8:20
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 14 @ Houston
DEC. 13 | 8:30
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 15 New Orleans
DEC. 19 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 16 @ Cleveland
DEC. 26 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 17 Cincinnati
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

signed Cory Redding during the offseason. Redding was once one of the top pass rushers in the league, but in the past two seasons he has battled injuries and played sparingly.

Baltimore is hoping Redding can return to form and provide pressure from the edge, which the Ravens didn't get much of last season. After a year in the weight room, second-year player Paul Kruger should be able to challenge Redding and Pryce for playing time. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸▸ The Ravens need an infusion of youth at this position. They have the bodies, but do they have the talent?

It all starts with middle linebacker Ray Lewis. A 15-year veteran, Lewis is still the leader of the team. He can still make plays, though mostly in run defense. In pass coverage, he has become a liability, though.

The other inside position will probably be handled by a host of players because the Ravens don't have anyone who excels at both run and pass defense. Second-year player Dannell Ellerbe was a run stopper at the beginning of the season but started playing well enough on pass defense to merit more time. He'll be the primary starter at the position when the season starts.

Brendon Ayanbadejo or Tavares Gooden will likely replace Ellerbe in pass coverage. Another option is using third-year pro Jameel McClain as a blitzing linebacker either inside or outside.

After a year at defensive end, Pro Bowler Terrell Suggs is back on the outside weighing 18 pounds less. Suggs gained the weight because he thought it would serve him well as a run stopper, but that's not his chief concern anymore.

Jarret Johnson is back on the strong side.

OFFSEASON MOVES

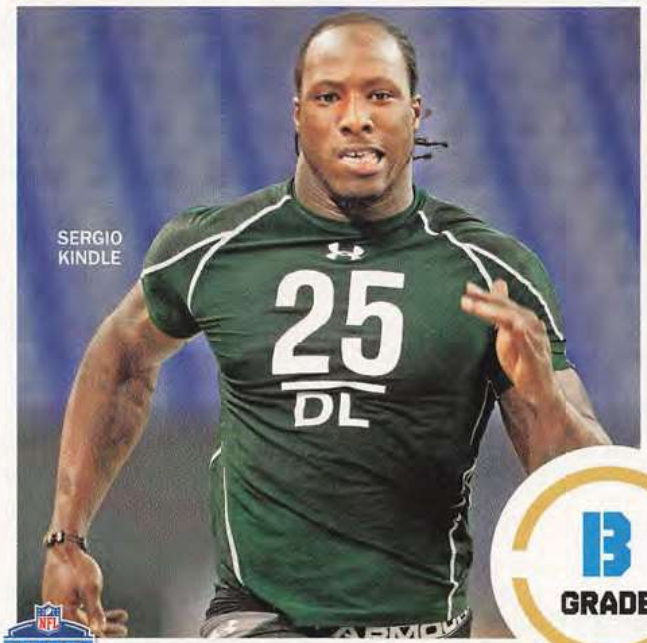
ADDITIONS

WR Donte' Stallworth *(FA/Browns)*, **WR Anquan Boldin** *(trade/Cardinals)*, **DT Cory Redding** *(FA/Seahawks)*

SUBTRACTIONS

DT Dwan Edwards *(FA/Bills)*, **TE Quinn Sypniewski** *(FA)*, **CB Samari Rolle** *(retired)*, **CB Corey Ivy** *(FA)*, **TE L.J. Smith** *(FA)*, **OT Adam Terry** *(FA/Colts)*, **DT Justin Bannan** *(FA/Broncos)*, **RB Charles Ali** *(FA/Cardinals)*

DRAFT REPORT



SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
2	11	Sergio Kindle	LB	6-3	250	Texas
2	25	Terrence Cody	DT	6-4	349	Alabama
3	6	Ed Dickson	TE	6-4	249	Oregon
4	16	Dennis Pitta	TE	6-5	245	Brigham Young
5	25	David Reed	WR	6-0	191	Utah
5	26	Arthur Jones	DT	6-3	301	Syracuse
6	25	Ramone Harewood	OT	6-6	341	Morehouse

B GRADE

The Ravens will have landed one of the biggest steals in the draft if **Sergio Kindle**'s knee heals properly. He is an explosive pass rusher who makes impact plays against the run and while rushing the quarterback.

Baltimore took a huge gamble in the second round by drafting **Terrence Cody**. The Alabama product may have excellent natural strength, but he has weight issues and was often a nonfactor last year. If Cody keeps his weight close to 330 pounds, he will be a good starter.

With tight end Todd Heap getting older, the Ravens picked up two potential replacements in **Ed Dickson** and **Dennis Pitta**. Dickson has the intangibles necessary to become a good all-around tight end, while Pitta has excellent receiving skills but is not a good blocker. **Arthur Jones** is an injury risk, as the cartilage damage in his knee was severe enough to keep him from practicing in the three months leading up to the draft. **Ramone Harewood** is a massive offensive tackle, but he was not dominant at Division 2 Morehouse.

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
12 Beck, John	QB	6-2	216	08/21/1981	4	Brigham Young
5 Flacco, Joe	QB	6-6	230	01/16/1985	3	Delaware
10 Smith, Troy	QB	6-0	215	07/20/1984	4	Ohio State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
77 Birk, Matt	C	6-4	309	07/23/1976	13	Harvard
60 Bujnoch, Digger	C	6-5	280	06/19/1985	1	Cincinnati
65 Chester, Chris	G	6-3	305	01/12/1983	5	Oklahoma
64 Cousins, Oniel	T	6-4	310	06/29/1984	3	UTEP
71 Gaither, Jared	T	6-9	330	03/18/1986	4	Maryland
66 Grubbs, Ben	G	6-3	315	03/10/1984	4	Auburn
62 Hale, David	G	6-6	315	03/03/1983	3	Weber State
70 Katula, Matt	C	6-6	272	08/22/1982	6	Wisconsin
72 Mattison, Bryan	G	6-3	272	05/15/1984	1	Iowa
79 Moll, Tony	G	6-5	306	08/23/1983	5	Nevada
74 Oher, Michael	T	6-4	309	05/28/1986	2	Ole Miss
76 Reitz, Joe	T	6-7	270	08/24/1985	2	Western Michigan
69 Rodgers, Stefan	T	6-5	310	11/03/1981	4	Lambuth
67 Sanders, Daniel	G	6-2	316	02/03/1986	1	Colorado
73 Yanda, Marshal	G	6-3	310	09/15/1984	4	Iowa

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Lawrence, Matt	RB	6-1	204	05/05/1985	2	Massachusetts
33 McClain, Le'Ron	RB	6-0	260	12/27/1984	4	Alabama
23 McGahee, Willis	RB	6-0	232	10/21/1981	8	Miami (FL)
34 Parmele, Jalen	RB	5-11	221	12/30/1985	3	Toledo
27 Rice, Ray	RB	5-8	205	01/22/1987	3	Rutgers

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
81 Boldin, Anquan	WR	6-1	217	10/03/1980	8	Florida State
89 Clayton, Mark	WR	5-10	195	07/02/1982	6	Oklahoma
83 Drew, Davon	TE	6-4	254	12/09/1985	1	East Carolina
80 Hannon, Chris	WR	6-3	205	02/18/1984	2	Tennessee
14 Harper, Justin	WR	6-4	214	02/24/1985	2	Virginia Tech
86 Heap, Todd	TE	6-5	252	03/16/1980	10	Arizona State
84 Jones, Edgar	TE	6-3	263	12/01/1984	4	Southeast Missouri St.
85 Mason, Derrick	WR	5-10	192	01/17/1974	14	Michigan State
16 Price, Maurice	WR	6-1	197	09/11/1985	1	Charleston Southern
13 Riley, Eron	WR	6-3	205	08/05/1987	1	Duke
11 Smith, Marcus	WR	6-1	212	01/11/1985	2	New Mexico
18 Stallworth, Donte'	WR	6-0	200	11/10/1980	8	Tennessee
87 Williams, Demetrius	WR	6-2	197	03/28/1983	5	Oregon

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
96 Divens, Lamar	DT	6-3	333	11/12/1985	2	Tennessee State
97 Gregg, Kelly	DT	6-0	310	11/01/1976	11	Oklahoma
99 Kruger, Paul	DE	6-4	265	02/15/1986	2	Utah
91 McKinney, Brandon	DT	6-2	324	08/24/1983	5	Michigan State
92 Ngata, Haloti	NT	6-4	340	01/21/1984	5	Oregon
90 Pryce, Trevor	DT	6-5	286	08/03/1975	14	Clemson
94 Redding, Cory	DT	6-4	295	11/15/1980	8	Texas
98 Talavou, Kelly	DT	6-2	334	10/04/1984	2	Utah
68 VanDeSteeg, Willie	DE	6-4	256	09/22/1985	1	Minnesota

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25 Carr, Chris	CB	5-10	180	04/30/1983	6	Boise State
37 Fitzhugh, Keith	S	5-11	205	11/11/1986	1	Mississippi State
24 Foxworth, Domonique	CB	5-11	180	03/27/1983	6	Maryland
40 Gerard, K.J.	CB	6-1	170	04/22/1986	1	Northern Arizona
26 Landry, Dawan	S	6-0	220	12/30/1982	5	Georgia Tech
43 Nakamura, Haruki	S	5-10	205	04/18/1986	3	Cincinnati
30 Paschal, Marcus	S	6-0	201	08/31/1984	3	Iowa
20 Reed, Ed	S	5-11	200	09/11/1978	9	Miami (FL)
31 Washington, Fabian	CB	5-11	180	06/09/1983	6	Nebraska
21 Webb, Lardarius	CB	5-10	179	10/12/1985	2	Nicholls State
29 Williams, Cary	CB	6-1	185	12/23/1984	2	Washburn
28 Zbikowski, Tom	S	5-11	215	05/22/1985	3	Notre Dame

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
51 Ayanbadejo, Brendon	LB	6-1	228	09/06/1976	8	UCLA
50 Barnes, Antwan	LB	6-1	245	10/19/1984	4	Florida International
54 Burgess, Prescott	LB	6-3	245	03/06/1984	3	Michigan
59 Ellerbe, Dannell	LB	6-1	228	11/29/1985	2	Georgia
56 Gooden, Tavares	LB	6-1	238	10/07/1984	3	Miami (FL)
95 Johnson, Jarret	LB	6-3	270	08/14/1981	8	Alabama
52 Lewis, Ray	LB	6-1	250	05/15/1975	15	Miami (FL)
53 McClain, Jameel	LB	6-1	256	07/25/1985	3	Syracuse
58 Phillips, Jason	LB	6-1	234	02/14/1986	1	TCU
55 Suggs, Terrell	LB	6-3	260	10/11/1982	8	Arizona State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Cundiff, Billy	K	6-1	201	03/30/1980	7	Drake
4 Koch, Sam	P	6-1	220	08/13/1982	5	Nebraska

JOHN HARBAUGH, *Head coach*
Cam Cameron, offensive coordinator; **Greg Mattison**, co-defensive coordinator; **Dean Pees**, co-defensive coordinator; **Jerry Rosburg,** special teams coordinator; **John Matsko**, offensive line; **Andy Moeller**, offensive line assistant; **Wilbert Montgomery**, running backs; **Wade Harmon**, tight ends; **Jim Hostler**, wide receivers; **Jim Zorn**, quarterbacks; **Chuck Pagano**, secondary; **Marwan Maalouf**, special teams assistant; **Clarence Brooks**, defensive line

Last season, he was the most dependable player on defense and should have made the Pro Bowl. Sergio Kindle, the team's second-round pick out of Texas, will see some action early as a pass-rushing specialist. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary This was one of the weak spots for the Ravens last year, and not much has changed in 2010. The key, though, is how well several players rebound from injuries.

Cornerbacks Lardarius Webb and Fabian Washington had major knee surgery during the offseason. If Webb recovers completely, he could be the shutdown cornerback the Ravens desperately need.

If Washington is healthy, he'll challenge Domonique Foxworth for a starting job. Foxworth and Washington have excellent speed but lack the size to play a lot of press coverage at the line of scrimmage. Chris Carr played well at the end of last season and could be either the nickel or dime back.

The Ravens are strong at the safety positions with returning starters Ed Reed and Dawan Landry and Haruki Nakamura and Tom Zbikowski as backups. But there are health questions here as well with both Reed and Landry having had past neck injuries, and Nakamura undergoing offseason surgery to repair a shattered ankle. **GRADE: C+**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JOHN HARBAUGH

Harbaugh has been successful in his short NFL coaching career, making the playoffs in both years. He keeps things simple, relying on a strong ground game and doing just enough through the air. And, of course, Harbaugh's specialty is defense, which the Ravens execute solidly year-in and year-out.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Ravens have Billy Cundiff as their kicker, but haven't shown a lot of confidence in him. Last season, Cundiff connected on 18 of 23 field goals and all 23 extra points. The punting duties are sound with Sam Koch, who averaged 43.7 yards on 73 punts last season, with 26 punts landing inside the 20-yard line.

Matt Katula is set for another season as the long snapper after rebounding from an arm injury that forced some high snaps near the end of last season. Jalen Parmele emerged as the team's top kick return man late last year. **GRADE: C+**

BOTTOM LINE

For nearly a decade, the Ravens have had a strong running game and stellar defenses, but not a passing game. That will change this year, as Baltimore has made serious upgrades at the receiver position. Now the Ravens are in a position to win games whether it's a defensive struggle or a shootout.

Barring any more injuries in the secondary, the Ravens should have a strong shot to win the AFC North and have as much talent as any conference title contender.

90
FINAL GRADE

2

AFC NORTH

SN PICK: 10-6

RASHARD MENDENHALL, RB

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Steelers must show resolve to get back into the postseason

By Gerry Dulac, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

These Super Bowl hangovers are getting to be a recurring theme for the Steelers.

For the second time in four seasons, Pittsburgh missed the playoffs a year after it won the Super Bowl, this time because its once-stingy defense gave up lots of points and failed to protect leads in the fourth quarter. Of course, it didn't help that the Steelers played most of the season without two of their best defensive players—Pro Bowl safety Troy Polamalu and defensive end Aaron Smith, the key to their run defense.

"That was us, that's the story of the National Football League," coach Mike Tomlin says. "It's one of the reasons I love it, man. You either do or you don't. We didn't."

But even though there are still plenty of questions about the advancing age of the defense, the biggest concern might be on offense, where offseason issues prompted a suspension for quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and the trade of wide receiver Santonio Holmes, the Super Bowl 43 MVP.

OFFENSE

Bruce Arians nearly lost his job after the season even though the offense had a 4,000-yard quarterback, two 1,000-yard receivers and a 1,000-yard rusher. Team president Art Rooney II says the team needs to get back to running the ball a little more, meaning he doesn't want the team to be so pass-oriented in 2010. But this offense is built around Roethlisberger to do just that. And that's what Pittsburgh does best.

Quarterbacks Roethlisberger will begin the season serving a six-game suspension, and how the Steelers get through that period will determine what kind of season they can expect.

Roethlisberger was sacked a career-high 50 times last season, but some of those were because he holds on to the ball longer than most trying to make a play. He has cut down on trying to force throws into coverage, as evidenced by just 12 interceptions in 506 attempts last season.

Dennis Dixon showed in one game against the Ravens that he can be the No. 2 quarterback, but he will begin the season No. 1 until Roethlisberger returns from suspension. That is, unless Byron Leftwich beats him out. The team reacquired Leftwich, who served as Roethlisberger's backup during the 2008 Super Bowl season, during draft weekend from the Buccaneers.

Dixon has a powerful throwing arm and the quickness and athleticism to run from the pocket. But until he gets more comfortable with the playbook, the coaches will limit the game plan and use the run to take some of the pressure off his shoulders.

Veteran Charlie Batch was re-signed as well, giving the Steelers one of the best signal-calling groups in the league. **GRADE: A**

Running backs The emergence of Rashard Mendenhall, a first-round pick in 2008, moved two-time Pro Bowler Willie Parker to the bench and eventually out the door.

After a slow start in which he was disciplined in Week 3 for not knowing his plays, Mendenhall came on to rush for 1,108 yards in an offense that relies heavily on the pass.

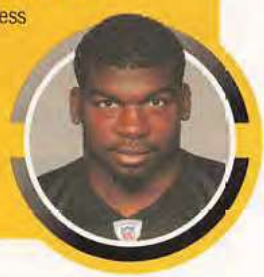
Mendenhall is not as fast as Parker, but he showed the ability to break off long runs, finishing among the league leaders with 10 runs of 20 yards or longer.

The loss of Parker elevates third-down back Mewelde Moore to the top backup spot, and the coaches are hoping a pair of 2009 rookies—230-pound Frank "The Tank" Summers and free agent Isaac Redman—can find their way into the rotation. **GRADE: B**

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

LAWRENCE TIMMONS — **LB**

Timmons was bothered by ankle injuries in his first season as a starter, depriving the former Florida State star of the explosiveness that made him a first-round pick in 2007. If he stays healthy, Timmons can blow up plays in the backfield.



PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Dennis Dixon Byron Leftwich
FB	Frank Summers David Johnson
RB	Rashard Mendenhall Mewelde Moore
LT	Max Starks Tony Hills
LG	Chris Kemoeatu Ramon Foster
C	Justin Hartwig Maurkice Pouncey
RG	Trai Essex Maurkice Pouncey
RT	Willie Colon Jonathan Scott
TE	Heath Miller Matt Spaeth
WR	Mike Wallace Emmanuel Sanders
WR	Hines Ward Antwaan Randle El
	DEFENSE
LE	Aaron Smith Nick Eason
NT	Casey Hampton Chris Hoke
RE	Brett Keisel Ziggy Hood
OLB	LaMarr Woodley Thaddeus Gibson
ILB	James Farrior Keyaron Fox
ILB	Lawrence Timmons Larry Foote
OLB	James Harrison Jason Worilds
LCB	Ike Taylor Keenan Lewis
SS	Troy Polamalu Ryan Mundy
FS	Ryan Clark Will Allen
RCB	Bryant McFadden William Gay
	SPECIALISTS
K	Jeff Reed
P	Daniel Sepulveda
KR	Stefan Logan
PR	Stefan Logan
LS	Greg Warren

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 9-7 HOME: 6-2

ONLINE
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www.steelers.com

STADIUM
Heinz Field
Capacity: 65,050 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 412-323-1200
Training Camp: St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa.; 724-805-1490

OPPOSITE PAGE: POST-GAZETTE / NEWSCOM

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Steelers)

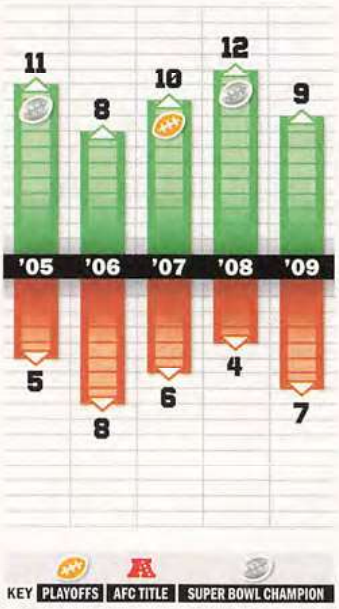
"One thing that has always held true about the Steelers, from Chuck Noll to Bill Cowher to Mike Tomlin, is that they are always well-prepared. They might beat themselves, but it's not going to happen too many times. If you look in the past couple years, they are in every game and rarely get blown out. And that's because of the way they play. They play to the strengths, and with them it starts with their defense. ...

"(Defensive coordinator) Dick LeBeau does an outstanding job of trying to make you one-dimensional, usually by taking away your running game. And they do that because they play so disciplined.

"The reason the defense is so effective is because they find players to fit the way they play—Aaron Smith, Casey Hampton, James Farrior—and then they make sure they have outside linebackers who can make plays. ...

"You combine that with a quarterback who can make plays, a guy who's not afraid to run around and keep the play alive, and you understand why they are never out of any game. That's what makes them dangerous."

5-YEAR RECORD: 50-30



Receivers ▸▸ All of a sudden, what appeared to be a deep position with no available roster spots is now a big question mark due to the loss of Holmes, who was traded to the Jets.

Holmes was a playmaker who could run well after the catch and draw a lot of attention from opposing defenses. That opened up room for Hines Ward and last year's rookie star, Mike Wallace.

But without Holmes, and with Ward entering his 13th season, the Steelers will have to rely more on Wallace and veteran Antwaan Randle El, who was brought back after leaving the team in free agency following the 2005 Super Bowl season. Even though he is 34, Ward is coming off one of his best seasons with 95 catches and 1,167 receiving yards.

The team is hoping rookie Emmanuel Sanders, a speedy, big-play receiver from SMU, can step in and be the fourth receiver.

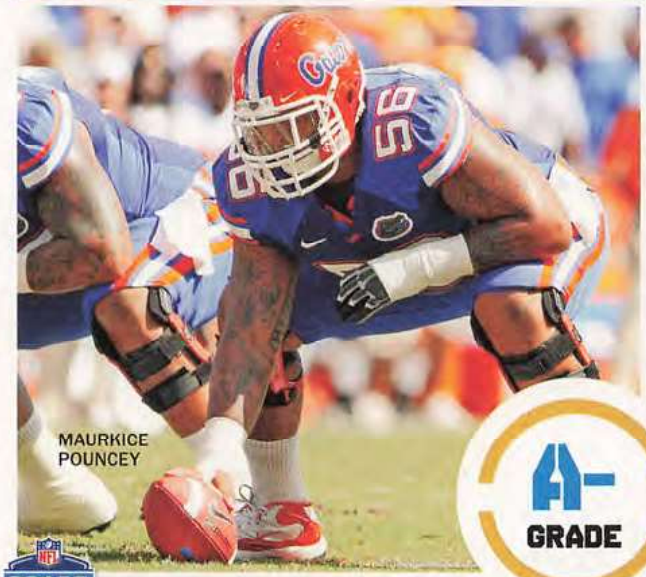
Holmes' absence might be a reprieve for former second-round pick Limas Sweed, who has never lived up to the expectations that followed him from Texas and has lost faith in his ability to catch the ball. However, Sweed injured his left Achilles tendon during minicamp and may miss significant time in 2010. **GRADE: B-**

Offensive line ▸▸ The inability to develop a consistent short-yardage attack led to the firing of offensive line coach Larry Ziegler. He was replaced by former Bills assistant Sean Kugler, who will bring more of a power-blocking scheme to the Steelers.

The coaches think Willie Colon is one of the best right tackles in the league, while left tackle Max Starks was more than serviceable against most of the league's top speed rushers. But left guard Chris Kemoeatu was slowed by injuries and still committed some of the mental mistakes he made as a first-year starter in 2008. Center Justin Hartwig did not play as well as he did a year ago, as injuries in the second half of the season limited his effectiveness.

The hope is that a pair of rookies from last season—third-round draft choice Kraig Urbik and free agent Ramon Foster—have improved enough to challenge for the

DRAFT REPORT



GRADE: A-

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	18	Maurkice Pouncey	C	6-5	304	Florida
2	20	Jason Worilds	LB	6-1	254	Virginia Tech
3	18	Emmanuel Sanders	WR	5-11	186	SMU
4	18	Thaddeus Gibson	LB	6-2	243	Ohio State
5	20	Chris Scott	G	6-5	319	Tennessee
5	33	Crezdon Butler	CB	6-0	191	Clemson
5	35	Stevenson Sylvester	LB	6-2	231	Utah
6	19	Jonathan Dwyer	RB	5-11	229	Georgia Tech
6	26	Antonio Brown	WR	5-10	186	Central Michigan
7	35	Doug Worthington	DT	6-5	292	Ohio State

The Steelers' priority was to upgrade the interior of their offensive line and **Maurkice Pouncey** has the size and talent to be the starting center or guard. To reach his potential, however, he'll need to increase his flexibility. In the second round, Pittsburgh jumped at **Jason Worilds**, who played defensive end at Virginia Tech but has the perfect size for a rush linebacker in the Steelers' 3-4 scheme.

Receiver **Emmanuel Sanders** was a good third-round pick. He should contribute as a rookie in the return game and may become the starting slot receiver. **Thaddeus Gibson** has the size and talent to switch from defensive end to rush linebacker. **Crezdon Butler** was a steal in the fifth round and will become a starter once he develops at cornerback.

The Steelers' best bargain came when they drafted running back **Jonathan Dwyer** in the sixth round. If Rashard Mendenhall slides in performance, Dwyer could slip into the starting role.

KIM KLEMENT / US PRESSWIRE

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/10	W	13-10	Tennessee Titans
09/20	L	14-17	at Chicago Bears
09/27	L	20-23	at Cincinnati Bengals
10/04	W	38-28	San Diego Chargers
10/11	W	28-20	at Detroit Lions
10/18	W	27-14	Cleveland Browns
10/25	W	27-17	Minnesota Vikings
11/09	W	28-10	at Denver Broncos
11/15	L	12-18	Cincinnati Bengals
11/22	L	24-27	at Kansas City Chiefs
11/29	L	17-20	at Baltimore Ravens
12/06	L	24-27	Oakland Raiders
12/10	L	6-13	at Cleveland Browns
12/20	W	37-36	Green Bay Packers
12/27	W	23-20	Baltimore Ravens
01/03	W	30-24	at Miami Dolphins

WON 9, LOST 7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Mendenhall	242	1108	4.6	60	7
Parker	98	389	4.0	34	0
Moore	35	118	3.4	15	0
Roethlisberger	40	82	2.1	15	2
Wallace	5	48	9.6	21	0
Dixon	3	27	9.0	24	1
Davis	2	15	7.5	14	0
Holmes	3	6	2.0	7	0
STEELERS	428	1793	4.2	60	10
OPPONENTS	372	1438	3.9	37	7

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Ward	95	1167	12.3	54	6
Holmes	79	1248	15.8	57	5
Miller	76	789	10.4	41	6
Wallace	39	756	19.4	60	6
Mendenhall	25	261	10.4	26	1
Moore	21	153	7.3	19	2
Parker	6	64	10.7	27	1
Spaeth	5	25	5.0	9	1
Johnson	2	9	4.5	5	0
Grisham	1	14	14.0	14	0
Logan	1	5	5.0	5	0
Sweed	1	5	5.0	5	0
STEELERS	351	4148	11.8	60	28
OPPONENTS	319	3447	10.8	83	22

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Roethlisberger	506	337	4328	26	12
Dixon	26	12	145	1	1
Batch	2	1	17	0	0
Moore	1	1	6	1	0
Holmes	1	0	0	0	1
STEELERS	536	351	4148	28	14
OPPONENTS	548	319	3447	22	12

SACKS STEELERS 46, OPPONENTS 50

Woodley 13.5, Harrison 10, Timmons 7, Farrior 3, Keisel 3, Hampton 2.5, Smith 2, Carter 1, Gay 1, Hood 1, Kirschke 1, Taylor 1

starting right-guard spot with incumbent Trai Essex. The Steelers rarely start rookies, but Florida's Maurkice Pouncey, the team's 2010 first-round pick, will also get a shot.

The biggest change, though, will be Kugler, who did a lot with a little last season with the Bills. He is hoping to introduce a more aggressive run-blocking scheme that should help short-yardage and goal-line situations, areas in which the Steelers have struggled. **GRADE: D**

DEFENSE

Coordinator Dick LeBeau goes into the Pro Football Hall of Fame this summer, but Pittsburgh's defensive performance was something of a bust last season, even though the unit finished fifth overall in the NFL. The Steelers' failure to protect leads combined with constantly giving up fourth-quarter points cost them a playoff spot in 2009.

Defensive line For the second time in three years, the team saw what impact a season-ending injury to defensive end Aaron Smith had on its defense, particularly against the run.

Smith was lost after Week 5 with a torn rotator cuff and the rush defense got progressively worse as the season wore on. The Steelers allowed an average of 124.3 rushing yards in the final six games.

Despite the presence of five-time Pro Bowl nose tackle Casey Hampton, who was signed to a three-year, $21 million contract in the offseason, Smith remains the anchor. He is strong at the point of attack, never gets knocked off his feet and can shed blocks better than any of their linemen.

The team must continue to develop young defensive linemen to come up with a better rotation that allows it to spell Smith and Hampton, who will be 33 when the season begins. Right end Brett Keisel and top backup Chris Hoke are also into their early 30s.

That process started last year when the team used its first-round pick on defensive end Ziggy Hood, who will probably see more playing time this season, especially in third-down situations. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers This unit remains the strength and lifeblood of the team, though there is some concern among the coaches if inside linebacker James Farrior can still be effective on every down at age 35.

That's one of the reasons the team brought back Larry Foote in free agency. Foote will improve the depth and be a safeguard in case Farrior, who showed signs of slowing down last season, continues to decline. Foote started every game for five years before asking for his release after the 2008 season.

Foote's request was granted because the team had Lawrence Timmons waiting in the wings, but Timmons did not have the impact the coaches expected last season due to ankle injuries.

The Steelers have the best tandem of outside linebackers in the league

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE TOMLIN

Tomlin has displayed a penchant for taking chances and making unconventional decisions, most of which have worked in his three seasons. But at times he has been too bold when the team has the lead. That's one of the reasons the Steelers lost so many close games last season, and it needs to change.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	371.3	7
RUSHING	112.1	19
PASSING	259.3	9
SCORING	368	12
PUNT RETURNS	8.1	18
KICK RETURNS	24.0	8
RED ZONE TD %	48.2	21t
TOTAL DEFENSE	305.3	5
AGAINST RUSH	89.9	3
AGAINST PASS	215.4	16
POINTS ALLOWED	324	12t
INTERCEPTIONS	12	25
SACKS	47	2
TURNOVER DIFF.	-3	20

STEELERS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Jason Gildon** *(1994-2003)* — **77.0**
2. **Joey Porter** *(1999-2006)* — **60.0**
3. **Keith Willis** *(1982-91)* — **59.0**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Atlanta — SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 2 @ Tennessee — SEPT. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 3 @ Tampa Bay — SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 4 Baltimore — OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

>> WEEK 5 OPEN DATE

WEEK 6 Cleveland — OCT. 17 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 7 @ Miami — OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 8 @ New Orleans — OCT. 31 | 8:20 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 9 @ Cincinnati — NOV. 8 | 8:30 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 10 New England — NOV. 14 | 8:20 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 11 Oakland — NOV. 21 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 12 @ Buffalo — NOV. 28 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 13 @ Baltimore — DEC. 5 | 8:20 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 14 Cincinnati — DEC. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 15 N.Y. Jets — DEC. 19 | 4:15 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 16 Carolina — DEC. 23 | 8:20 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 17 @ Cleveland — JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

with three-time Pro Bowler James Harrison and LaMarr Woodley, who is coming off a season in which he led the team with 13.5 sacks.

Harrison's production declined from 2008, when he had a team-record 16 sacks and was named the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year. But a lot of that was because opposing teams paid more attention to him with double-team blocks. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸▸ There is little question that the loss of Polamalu, the team's five-time Pro Bowl safety who missed 11 games with a knee injury, had a dramatic impact on the performance of the secondary.

And it really affected free safety Ryan Clark, who was beaten for several long pass plays that cost the team during its five-game losing streak.

The secondary didn't sit back and properly defend the deep pass, something LeBeau demands from his corners in the zone-blitz defense. Pittsburgh allowed nine passes of 40 yards or longer—seven more than in 2008.

William Gay played so poorly in his first year as a full-time starter that the team

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

LB Larry Foote *(FA/Lions)*, **OT Jonathan Scott** *(FA/Bills)*, **WR Arnaz Battle** *(FA/49ers)*, **S Will Allen** *(FA/Buccaneers)*, **WR Antwaan Randle El** *(FA/Redskins)*, **QB Byron Leftwich** *(trade/Buccaneers)*, **CB Bryant McFadden** *(trade/Cardinals)*

SUBTRACTIONS

RB Willie Parker *(FA/Redskins)*, **WR Santonio Holmes** *(trade/Jets)*, **S Tyrone Carter** *(FA)*, **WR Joey Galloway** *(FA/Redskins)*, **DE Travis Kirschke** *(FA)*, **CB Deshea Townsend** *(FA)*

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ... TROY POLAMALU

(how a rival sizes him up)

"The big plus are the splash plays that he can make. When he's not on the field, they're not the same. He makes other teams have to plan for him, makes them figure out where he's going to be on blitz protection and coverages. He is hard to handle because he creates plays for other players with his speed, versatility and instincts even when he doesn't make one himself. ...

"He has great range and great closing speed. I'm not sure there are many players in the league who can close like him. And he's an excellent tackler, a good blitzer, good hands. And he trusts his instincts. He reads routes. He tries to read your eyes when he's back there. We know the magnitude and effect he can have on a game. On top of that, he seems like a really good guy. You appreciate those qualities from the outside looking in."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
16 Batch, Charlie	QB	6-2	216	12/05/1974	13	Eastern Michigan
10 Dixon, Dennis	QB	6-3	195	01/11/1985	3	Oregon
4 Leftwich, Byron	QB	6-5	250	01/14/1980	8	Marshall
7 Roethlisberger, Ben	QB	6-5	241	03/02/1982	7	Miami (OH)

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
74 Colon, Willie	T	6-3	315	04/09/1983	5	Hofstra
79 Essex, Trai	G	6-4	324	12/05/1982	6	Northwestern
73 Foster, Ramon	T	6-6	325	01/07/1986	2	Tennessee
62 Hartwig, Justin	C	6-4	312	11/21/1978	9	Kansas
66 Hills, Tony	T	6-5	305	11/04/1984	3	Texas
68 Kemoeatu, Chris	G	6-3	344	01/04/1983	6	Utah
64 Legursky, Doug	C	6-1	315	06/09/1986	2	Marshall
72 Scott, Jonathan	T	6-6	318	01/10/1983	4	Texas
78 Starks, Max	T	6-8	345	01/10/1982	7	Florida
65 Urbik, Kraig	G	6-5	323	09/23/1985	2	Wisconsin
60 Warren, Greg	C	6-3	252	10/18/1981	6	North Carolina

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
11 Logan, Stefan	WR	5-7	185	06/02/1981	2	South Dakota
34 Mendenhall, Rashard	RB	5-10	225	06/19/1987	3	Illinois
21 Moore, Mewelde	RB	5-11	209	07/24/1982	7	Tulane
33 Redman, Isaac	RB	6-0	230	11/10/1984	1	Bowie State
44 Summers, Frank	RB	5-10	230	09/06/1985	1	UNLV
28 Vincent, Justin	RB	5-10	219	01/25/1983	1	LSU

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
81 Battle, Arnaz	WR	6-1	208	02/22/1980	8	Notre Dame
80 Bright, Eugene	TE	6-4	268	04/18/1985	1	Purdue
18 Chery, Jason	WR	5-11	180	05/31/1986	1	Louisiana-Lafayette
19 Grisham, Tyler	WR	5-11	180	06/11/1987	1	Clemson
85 Johnson, David	TE	6-2	260	08/26/1987	2	Arkansas State
15 London, Brandon	WR	6-4	215	10/16/1984	2	Massachusetts
49 McHugh, Sean	TE	6-5	265	05/27/1982	4	Penn State
83 Miller, Heath	TE	6-5	256	10/22/1982	6	Virginia
82 Randle El, Antwaan	WR	5-10	185	08/17/1979	9	Indiana
89 Spaeth, Matt	TE	6-7	270	11/24/1984	4	Minnesota
14 Sweed, Limas	WR	6-4	212	12/25/1984	3	Texas
17 Wallace, Mike	WR	6-0	199	08/01/1986	2	Ole Miss
86 Ward, Hines	WR	6-0	205	03/08/1976	13	Georgia

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
93 Eason, Nick	DE	6-3	305	05/29/1980	8	Clemson
98 Hampton, Casey	NT	6-1	325	09/03/1977	10	Texas
77 Harris, Ra'Shon	DE	6-5	321	08/26/1986	2	Oregon
76 Hoke, Chris	NT	6-2	305	04/06/1976	10	Brigham Young
96 Hood, Ziggy	DE	6-3	300	02/16/1987	2	Missouri
99 Keisel, Brett	DE	6-5	285	09/19/1978	9	Brigham Young
69 McLendon, Steve	DT	6-4	280	01/03/1986	1	Troy
71 Paxson, Scott	NT	6-4	292	02/03/1983	2	Penn State
61 Retkofsky, Jared	DE	6-5	260	03/16/1983	3	TCU
91 Smith, Aaron	DE	6-5	298	04/09/1976	12	Northern Colorado

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
26 Allen, Will	S	6-1	200	06/17/1982	7	Ohio State
27 Burnett, Joe	CB	5-9	192	11/28/1986	2	UCF
25 Clark, Ryan	S	5-11	205	10/12/1979	9	LSU
22 Gay, William	CB	5-10	190	01/01/1985	4	Louisville
31 Harris, Tuff	S	6-0	198	01/23/1983	3	Montana
20 Lewis, Keenan	CB	6-0	208	05/17/1986	2	Oregon State
37 Madison, Anthony	CB	5-9	180	10/08/1981	5	Alabama
20 McFadden, Bryant	CB	6-0	190	11/21/1981	6	Florida State
29 Mundy, Ryan	S	6-1	215	02/11/1985	2	West Virginia
30 Pittman, David	CB	5-11	182	10/14/1983	4	Northwestern State
43 Polamalu, Troy	S	5-10	207	04/19/1981	8	USC
24 Taylor, Ike	CB	6-2	191	05/05/1980	8	Louisiana-Lafayette
35 Williams, Trae	CB	5-10	195	01/30/1985	2	South Florida

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Bailey, Patrick	LB	6-4	235	11/19/1985	3	Duke
45 Doggett, Derrick	LB	6-3	215	12/31/1984	1	Oregon State
51 Farrior, James	LB	6-2	243	01/06/1975	14	Virginia
50 Foote, Larry	LB	6-1	239	06/12/1980	9	Michigan
57 Fox, Keyaron	LB	6-3	235	01/23/1982	7	Georgia Tech
54 Frazier, Andre	LB	6-5	245	06/29/1982	6	Cincinnati
92 Harrison, James	LB	6-0	242	05/04/1978	7	Kent State
94 Timmons, Lawrence	LB	6-1	234	05/14/1986	4	Florida State
53 Williams, Johnny	LB	6-3	240	02/20/1986	1	Kentucky
48 Williams, Renauld	LB	6-0	238	02/23/1981	3	Hofstra
56 Woodley, LaMarr	LB	6-2	265	11/03/1984	4	Michigan

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Czech, Piotr	K	6-5	210	08/17/1986	0	Wagner
8 Graessle, Adam	P	6-4	225	11/25/1984	1	Pittsburgh
3 Reed, Jeff	K	5-11	225	04/09/1979	9	North Carolina
9 Sepulveda, Daniel	P	6-3	230	01/12/1984	4	Baylor

» MIKE TOMLIN, *Head coach*

Bruce Arians, offensive coordinator; **Dick LeBeau,** defensive coordinator; **Al Everest,** special teams coordinator; **Sean Kugler,** offensive line; **Harold Goodwin,** offensive assistant; **Kurby Wilson,** running backs; **James Daniel,** tight ends; **Jerry Olsavesky,** defensive assistant; **Randy Fichtner,** quarterbacks; **Ray Horton,** secondary; **Amos Jones,** special teams assistant; **Keith Butler,** linebackers; **John Mitchell,** assistant head coach/defensive line

made a draft-day trade to re-acquire former starter Bryant McFadden, who left in free agency after the 2008 season. McFadden is expected to assume his old role.

Ike Taylor remains a viable starter at corner, but the team needs to get quick development from last year's rookies—third-round pick Keenan Lewis and fifth-rounder Joe Burnett. **GRADE: D**

SPECIAL TEAMS

After allowing four kickoff returns for touchdowns last season, Tomlin took steps to improve his coverage units by signing Will Allen and Arnaz Battle, both of whom are proven special-teams performers. He also brought in a new special teams coach, Al Everest, from the 49ers.

The message was clear: Improve the coverage or else.

Last year, the team imported CFL standout Stefan Logan to improve the return game, and he finished with a club-record 1,466 kick return yards. However, Logan rarely changed a game and never produced a touchdown.

The team put the franchise tag on Jeff Reed and for good reason: He has been the league's most consistent kicker the past three seasons, converting 88.5 percent of his field goals during that time. **GRADE: D**

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Rashard Mendenhall remains a first-round back with upside. He accounted for 61.8 percent of Pittsburgh's rushing yards in 2009. Mendenhall is good for at least 1,200 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2010.

BUY
Hines Ward
WR

SELL
Ben Roethlisberger
QB

SLEEPER
Mike Wallace
WR

BOTTOM LINE

One thing is always true: The combination of a good defense and Roethlisberger means the Steelers are never out of any game or any season. But if they cannot correct some of the problems that plagued them on defense last season (particularly in the secondary), it will be another struggle.

Pittsburgh must also overcome the suspension of Roethlisberger, as Dixon or Leftwich must step up to lead the team. How the Steelers fare in the first month will go a long way in determining postseason hopes in 2010.

87
FINAL GRADE

STEADY
STOCK REPORT

3

AFC NORTH

SN PICK: 8-8

CHAD OCHOCINCO, WR

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Bengals will have to earn their stripes to repeat in AFC North

By Chick Ludwig, *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*

After a season of triumph and tragedy in which a march to the playoffs was marred by the death of receiver Chris Henry, the Bengals will look for their first back-to-back postseason appearances since 1982.

The starting unit of the league's fourth-ranked defense returns intact. The running game, led by tailback Cedric Benson, should be strong again. Most importantly, the club has taken the necessary steps to resuscitate the passing game and quarterback Carson Palmer.

The offseason acquisition of wide receiver Antonio Bryant provides the Bengals with an explosive complement to Chad Ochocinco, and should turn one of the team's biggest weaknesses into a strength.

"We need to keep putting pieces around our quarterback to enable him to utilize all the abilities he has," coach Marvin Lewis says. "We have to give him the best tool belt we can put around him to get things done."

OFFENSE

Coordinator Bob Bratkowski likes a wide-open, balanced attack so he can spread the field with three wideouts to complement a hammering ground game. A year ago, Bratkowski was handcuffed because he was unable to find a consistent No. 2 receiver to take the pressure off Ochocinco, and the result was a one-dimensional unit that relied on the power running of Benson. Bryant's presence should make a huge difference in 2010, as he gives the passing game some much-needed punch.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ With an 0-2 playoff record and injuries over the years to his left knee, right elbow and left thumb, Palmer finally finds himself healthy, but also on the hot seat, as he enters his eighth NFL season.

Blessed with talent that includes great size, arm strength, pocket presence and leadership ability, Palmer needs a postseason run to cement his status as one of the top signal-callers in franchise history.

The 2009 season will be remembered as the year of the "Cardiac Cats." Palmer directed seven fourth-quarter drives that gave the Bengals the lead, tied the game or won it. But his accuracy tailed off in the final month as the club wore down physically, mentally and emotionally.

Look for Palmer's production to increase now with more weapons in his arsenal. Anything less than a 4,000-yard season and another trip to the playoffs will be a major disappointment for the team's offensive captain.

The feisty, fiery and well-traveled J.T. O'Sullivan enters his second season as the No. 2 quarterback, while Jordan Palmer, Carson's brother, looks to repeat as the No. 3. O'Sullivan's combination of experience, knowledge and moxie makes him a solid backup. **GRADE: C+**

Running backs ▸▸ The team rolled the dice when it signed Benson a month into the 2008 season following his release from the Bears. The gamble paid off, as Benson has produced 1,998 rushing yards in 25 games and stayed out of trouble off the field.

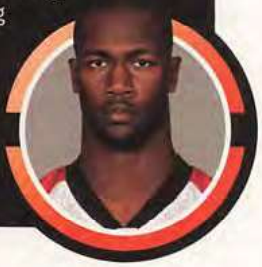
He set a single-season club record with six 100-yard games en route to 1,251 rushing yards last year, a number that likely would have increased had he not missed three games with a hip flexor strain.

Benson is a proven workhorse, but backups Bernard Scott and Brian Leonard ease the load. Scott is a slippery, explosive back who changes directions quickly without losing any speed. His stop-and-start acceleration allows him to make defenders miss. Leonard is the team's unsung hero as a first-down machine, serving as Palmer's favorite check-down receiver in the flat.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

MICHAEL JOHNSON — **DE**

Johnson is a pass-rushing machine, oozing talent and potential. He showed promise as a rookie, swatting passes and generating three sacks. He's worked hard to improve his upper-body strength and is now ready to be a force.



PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Carson Palmer J.T. O'Sullivan
FB	Fui Vakapuna Brian Leonard
RB	Cedric Benson Bernard Scott
LT	Andrew Whitworth Anthony Collins
LG	Nate Livings Evan Mathis
C	Kyle Cook Jonathan Luigs
RG	Bobbie Williams Evan Mathis
RT	Andre Smith Dennis Roland
TE	Jermaine Gresham Chase Coffman
WR	Chad Ochocinco Matt Jones
WR	Antonio Bryant Andre Caldwell
DEFENSE	
LE	Robert Geathers Michael Johnson
LT	Domata Peko Pat Sims
RT	Tank Johnson Clinton McDonald
RE	Antwan Odom Jonathan Fanene
SLB	Rey Maualuga Rashad Jeanty
MLB	Dhani Jones Roddrick Muckelroy
WLB	Keith Rivers Brandon Johnson
LCB	Johnathan Joseph David Jones
SS	Roy Williams Chinedum Ndukwe
FS	Chris Crocker Tom Nelson
RCB	Leon Hall Brandon Ghee
SPECIALISTS	
K	Dave Rayner
P	Kevin Huber
KR	Bernard Scott
PR	Jordan Shipley
LS	Clark Harris

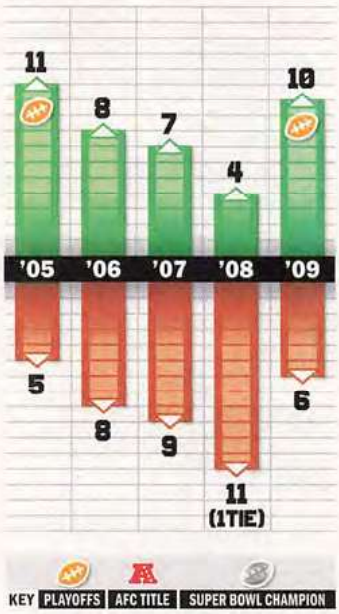
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 6-2

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/bengals
www.bengals.com

STADIUM
Paul Brown Stadium
Capacity: 65,535 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 513-621-8383
Training Camp: Georgetown (Ky.) College; 502-868-6300

OPPOSITE: FRANK VICTORES / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR RECORD: 40-39-1



FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Carson Palmer produced one 300-yard game compared with six contests of less than 200 passing yards in 2009. He's more of a backup fantasy option than an every-week starter.

BUY
Chad Ochocinco
WR

SELL
Cedric Benson
RB

SLEEPER
Antonio Bryant
WR

After a year of seasoning, Fui Vakapuna is ready to blossom at fullback. He's a bruiser who's able to sift through the line of scrimmage and deliver crunching blocks on linebackers and also produces in short-yardage situations. **GRADE: A-**

Receivers ▸▸ After the sixth Pro Bowl appearance of his NFL career, Ochocinco spent part of the offseason training and competing with partner Cheryl Burke on the popular TV show "Dancing With The Stars."

He'll have a new dance partner this fall in Bryant, a welcome free-agent addition who is expected to make an immediate impact with his great hands, speed and toughness.

Losing T.J. Houshmandzadeh to the Seahawks in free agency last offseason hurt, but the season-ending injury and subsequent tragic death to Henry proved devastating.

"(Opponents) just took Chad away and then we seemed to be hamstrung," owner Mike Brown says. "Our passing yards went from about 230 to 170 (per game), which wasn't enough. We had to do something to shore that up and we have."

Andre Caldwell has the ability to be a solid No. 3 receiver if he can improve his ball security. For insurance and depth purposes, the club drafted versatile Jordan Shipley and signed ex-Jaguars first-rounder Matt Jones with hopes he can resurrect his once-promising career.

Tight end is no longer the forgotten position in the club's arsenal. First-round draftee Jermaine Gresham is expected to make an immediate impact, especially in the red zone, while second-year man Chase Coffman has potential as a receiver and blocker if he can stay healthy. **GRADE: C+**

Offensive line ▸▸ Cincinnati's offensive line is mostly young and hungry—a unit that is steadily getting better. But there's plenty of room for improvement along the front wall that protects Palmer and opens holes for Benson.

Powerfully built with skilled run blockers, the line's goal in 2010 is to tighten the pass protection for Palmer, who was sacked 26 times last year. Re-signing right guard Bobbie Williams solidifies a close-knit unit that is gaining momentum and experience.

Right tackle Andre Smith holds the key to the line's success. Last year's first-round draft pick saw limited action (6 games with 1 start) after suffering a broken bone in his left foot last September. He's coming off February foot surgery and is expected to be healthy for training camp.

Smith has the size, strength, foot speed and balance to be a force opposite athletic left tackle Andrew Whitworth. Center Kyle Cook and left guard Nate Livings entered the league as college free agents, and both have worked hard to earn starting jobs. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

The Bengals' 4-3 defense has come a long way under coordinator Mike Zimmer. It climbed all the way to No. 4 in the NFL with 301.4 yards allowed per game in 2009, and the unit should be just as good in 2010 given that all of the Bengals' key defenders return.

Zimmer's philosophy is based on

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	309.1	24
RUSHING	128.5	9
PASSING	180.6	26
SCORING	305	22
PUNT RETURNS	11.9	2
KICK RETURNS	21.9	22
RED ZONE TD %	50.0	18t
TOTAL DEFENSE	301.4	4
AGAINST RUSH	98.3	7
AGAINST PASS	203.1	6
POINTS ALLOWED	291	6
INTERCEPTIONS	19	9t
SACKS	34	16t
TURNOVER DIFF.	0	18

BENGALS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Eddie Edwards** *(1977-88)* — 47.5
2. **Justin Smith** *(2001-07)* — 43.5
3. **Reggie Williams** *(1976-89)* — 41.0

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Bengals)

"I think Cincinnati has changed dramatically. I don't think they lost a division game a year ago. You look at good defense right from the beginning. And now you're getting a healthy Carson Palmer. He needs another weapon or two around him to enhance the passing game, and I'm sure the team will address that. ...

"The way the Bengals play defensively and offensively is impressive. Mike (Zimmer) has done a great job on defense there. Carson's healthy. They're running the ball better. It's good football."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	7-12	Denver Broncos
09/20	W	31-24	at Green Bay Packers
09/27	W	23-20	Pittsburgh Steelers
10/04	W	23-20	at Cleveland Browns
10/11	W	17-14	at Baltimore Ravens
10/18	L	17-28	Houston Texans
10/25	W	45-10	Chicago Bears
11/08	W	17-7	Baltimore Ravens
11/15	W	18-12	at Pittsburgh Steelers
11/22	L	17-20	at Oakland Raiders
11/29	W	16-7	Cleveland Browns
12/06	W	23-13	Detroit Lions
12/13	L	10-30	at Minnesota Vikings
12/20	L	24-27	at San Diego Chargers
12/27	W	17-10	Kansas City Chiefs
01/03	L	0-37	at New York Jets

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Benson	301	1251	4.2	42	6
Scott	74	321	4.3	61	0
L. Johnson	46	204	4.4	27	0
Palmer	39	93	2.4	15	3
Leonard	27	84	3.1	11	0
Ochocinco	3	32	10.7	26	0
Caldwell	3	22	7.3	15	0
Crocker	1	21	21.0	21	0
O'Sullivan	3	12	4.0	6	0
Coles	2	10	5.0	8	0
J. Johnson	4	8	2.0	4	0
Huber	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cosby	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
BENGALS	**505**	**2056**	**4.1**	**61**	**9**
OPPONENTS	399	1573	3.9	57	12

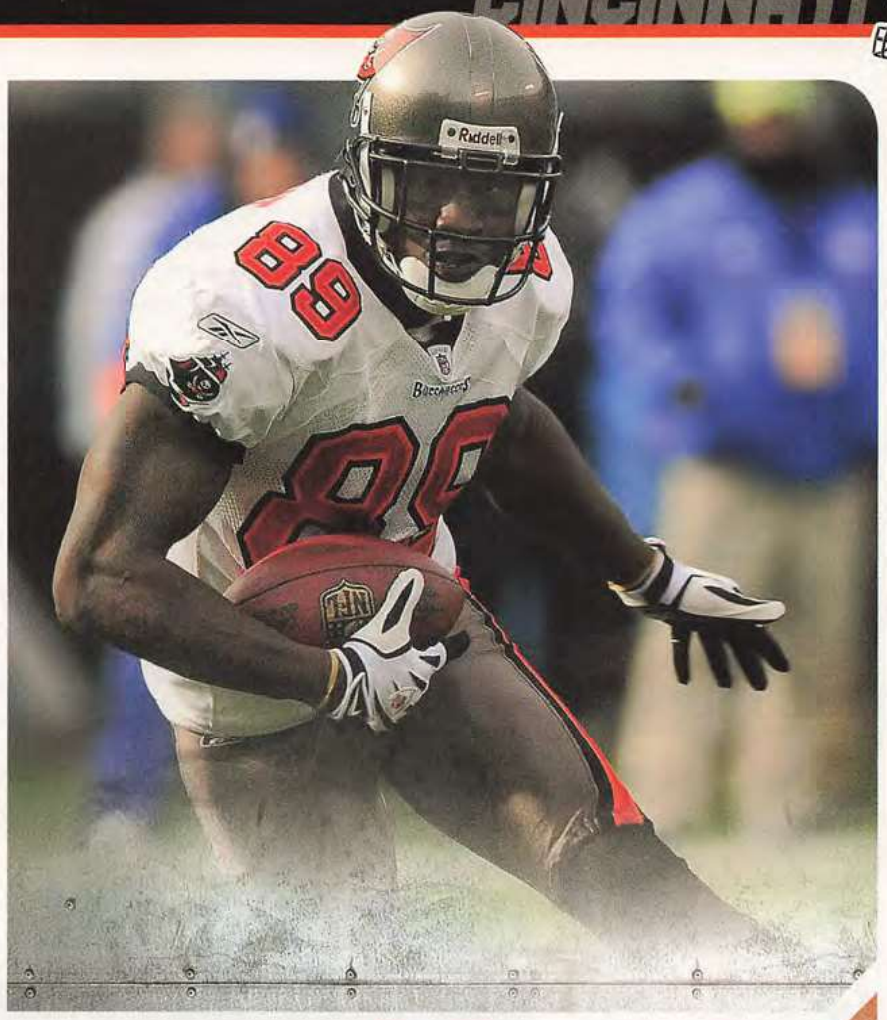
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Ochocinco	72	1047	14.5	50	9
Caldwell	51	432	8.5	24	3
Coles	43	514	12.0	40	5
Leonard	30	217	7.2	18	0
Foschi	27	260	9.6	27	2
Benson	17	111	6.5	19	0
Coats	16	150	9.4	23	0
Henry	12	236	19.7	73	2
J. Johnson	6	41	6.8	9	0
Scott	5	67	13.4	23	0
Cosby	4	55	13.8	23	0
L. Johnson	3	4	1.3	6	0
BENGALS	**286**	**2890**	**10.1**	**73**	**21**
OPPONENTS	318	3249	10.2	87	18

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Palmer	466	282	3094	21	13
O'Sullivan	11	4	40	0	0
BENGALS	**477**	**286**	**2890**	**21**	**13**
OPPONENTS	547	318	3249	18	19

SACKS BENGALS 34, OPPONENTS 29

Odom 8, Fanene 6, Geathers 3.5, Jones 3.5, M. Johnson 3, T. Johnson 2, Ndukwe 2, B. Johnson 1.5, Maualuga 1, Rivers 1, Rucker 1, Trent 1, Sims 0.5

SAM SHARPE / US PRESSWIRE



THE BOOK ON ... ANTONIO BRYANT

(how a rival sizes him up)

"You're talking about a tough, physical player who's going to be dynamic and who has the ability to make a big-time catch in big-time situations. He's fast, physical and aggressive, and brings a certain toughness. ...

"In that division (AFC North), you want guys like him. He's very competitive. Sometimes it hurts him and sometimes it works out in his favor. But at the same time, he's a guy that is going to come out and give everything he has. He'll give the Bengals great effort. He'll do a lot for the Bengals and the Bengals will do a lot for him."

discipline, toughness, pressure and speed. The unit shows solid technique and doesn't gamble often. Zimmer has the veterans to make it work.

Defensive line ▸▸ Left end Robert Geathers, right end Antwan Odom, left tackle Domata Peko and right tackle Tank Johnson comprise the most underappreciated unit on the squad. It's not spectacular, just solid.

Odom unleashed eight sacks in three of the first four games of 2009 before a torn Achilles in Week 6 sidelined him for the remainder of the season. He's expected to make a full recovery, but the jury is out on how explosive and elusive he'll be.

Luckily for the Bengals, there's depth and options. Ends Jonathan Fanene, Frostee Rucker and rookie Michael Johnson picked up the slack in Odom's absence, combining for 10 sacks. Pat Sims rotates in to keep the starters fresh and Johnson moves inside in the nickel package because of his ability to deflect passes with his long, wide wingspan.

There are no Pro Bowl players on this "no-name" unit, but Zimmer has instilled a toughness and intensity in the front four that sets the tone for the entire defense. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸▸ With an old warhorse (Dhani Jones) in the middle sandwiched between two young

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ New England	SEPT. 12 1:00	W L
WEEK 2	Baltimore	SEPT. 19 1:00	W L
WEEK 3	@ Carolina	SEPT. 26 1:00	W L
WEEK 4	@ Cleveland	OCT. 3 1:00	W L
WEEK 5	Tampa Bay	OCT. 10 1:00	W L
WEEK 6	OPEN DATE		
WEEK 7	@ Atlanta	OCT. 24 1:00	W L
WEEK 8	Miami	OCT. 31 1:00	W L
WEEK 9	Pittsburgh	NOV. 8 8:30	W L
WEEK 10	@ Indianapolis	NOV. 14 1:00	W L
WEEK 11	Buffalo	NOV. 21 1:00	W L
WEEK 12	@ N.Y. Jets	NOV. 25 8:20	W L
WEEK 13	New Orleans	DEC. 5 1:00	W L
WEEK 14	@ Pittsburgh	DEC. 12 1:00	W L
WEEK 15	Cleveland	DEC. 19 1:00	W L
WEEK 16	San Diego	DEC. 26 8:20	W L
WEEK 17	@ Baltimore	JAN. 2 1:00	W L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

stallions (Keith Rivers and Rey Maualuga), the linebacker corps is in good hands heading into the 2010 season.

Jones is the heart and soul, top tackler and undisputed leader of the defense. As the brains of the fast, physical unit, Jones is responsible for making sure his teammates know their alignments and assignments so the operation runs smoothly.

Rivers has been steady, but weakside backup Brandon Johnson is slowly gaining on him. It's time for Rivers, a third-year veteran, to become special, as he's equipped with all the tools. If not, Brandon Johnson could take over the starting slot.

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

WR Antonio Bryant *(FA/Buccaneers)*, **K Mike Nugent** *(FA/Cardinals)*, **RB Cedric Peerman** *(FA/Lions)*, **CB Adam Jones** *(FA)*

SUBTRACTIONS

WR Laveranues Coles *(FA)*, **K Shayne Graham** *(FA)*, **RB Larry Johnson** *(FA/Redskins)*, **S DeAngelo Willingham** *(FA/Buccaneers)*

Maualuga had never played the strongside role before, but the 2009 second-round pick learned quickly, piling up 63 tackles, one sack, three forced fumbles and two pass deflections in 15 starts before a broken ankle ended his season. He pleaded guilty in February to drunken driving and it was unclear at press time whether he would be facing a suspension by the league to begin the season. **GRADE: B-**

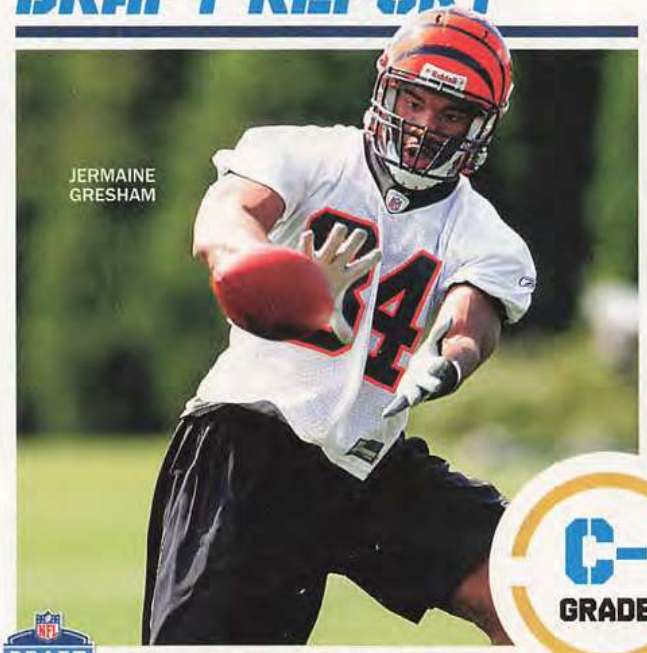
Secondary ▸▸ First-round draft picks Leon Hall (2007) and Johnathan Joseph (2006) have blossomed into one of the top cornerback tandems in the league. At the same time, the sun is beginning to set on the careers of strong safety Roy Williams and free safety Chris Crocker.

And that's the interesting thing about this unit: It's loaded with both youthful enthusiasm and veteran savvy, but can it remain healthy?

You can't mention Hall without Joseph, because they shared team MVP honors with six interceptions each in 2009.

Both possess tremendous speed, quickness and ball skills. They're excellent in zone coverage because they read, react and make quick

DRAFT REPORT



FRANK VICTORES / US PRESSWIRE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	21	Jermaine Gresham	TE	6-5	261	Oklahoma
2	22	Carlos Dunlap	DE	6-6	278	Florida
3	20	Jordan Shipley	WR	5-11	193	Texas
3	32	Brandon Ghee	CB	6-0	192	Wake Forest
4	22	Geno Atkins	DT	6-2	293	Georgia
4	33	Roddrick Muckelroy	LB	6-2	246	Texas
5	21	Otis Hudson	OT	6-5	312	Eastern Illinois
6	22	Dezmon Briscoe	WR	6-2	207	Kansas
7	21	Reggie Stephens	C	6-3	314	Iowa State

C-
GRADE

The Bengals began their draft with questionable picks. While **Jermaine Gresham** has the talent to be an impact receiving tight end, he is coming off microfracture surgery and is a one-dimensional player. The second round was no better, as the team gambled on defensive end **Carlos Dunlap**. He has the size for the NFL but his effort and instincts are questionable. The third round showed better results with **Jordan Shipley** coming in, but he likely would have been available in the fourth or fifth round. Cincinnati's other third-rounder, **Brandon Ghee**, has a long way to go to become a consistent coverage cornerback.

The Bengals finally hit on two players with potential in the fourth round. Defensive tackle **Geno Atkins** is an explosive interior player who shined at the Senior Bowl, but he is smaller than ideal. The coaches aren't sure where to put linebacker **Roddrick Muckelroy**, which is why he fell. They got steals in the fifth and sixth rounds as well, with offensive guard **Otis Hudson**, a potential starter, and wide receiver **Dezmon Briscoe**.

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 O'Sullivan, J.T.	QB	6-2	227	08/25/1979	8	UC Davis
9 Palmer, Carson	QB	6-5	230	12/27/1979	8	USC
5 Palmer, Jordan	QB	6-5	235	05/30/1984	3	UTEP

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
73 Collins, Anthony	T	6-5	317	11/02/1985	3	Kansas
64 Cook, Kyle	C	6-3	306	07/25/1983	3	Michigan State
62 Livings, Nate	G	6-5	310	03/16/1982	3	LSU
50 Luigs, Jonathan	C	6-4	314	08/11/1986	2	Arkansas
66 Mathis, Evan	G	6-5	305	11/01/1981	6	Alabama
74 Roland, Dennis	T	6-9	325	03/10/1983	3	Georgia
65 Santucci, Dan	C	6-4	296	09/06/1983	2	Notre Dame
70 Shirley, Jason	G	6-5	338	09/30/1985	2	Fresno State
71 Smith, Andre	T	6-4	332	01/25/1987	2	Alabama
77 Whitworth, Andrew	T	6-7	330	12/12/1981	5	LSU
63 Williams, Bobbie	G	6-4	345	09/25/1976	11	Arkansas

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Benson, Cedric	RB	5-11	220	12/28/1982	6	Texas
40 Leonard, Brian	RB	6-1	226	02/03/1984	4	Rutgers
30 Peerman, Cedric	RB	5-9	210	10/10/1986	1	Virginia
28 Scott, Bernard	RB	5-11	220	02/10/1984	2	Abilene Christian
37 Vakapuna, Fui	RB	6-1	245	03/09/1984	2	Brigham Young

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
84 Brown, Freddie	WR	6-4	215	06/24/1986	1	Utah
81 Bryant, Antonio	WR	6-1	205	03/09/1981	8	Pittsburgh
87 Caldwell, Andre	WR	6-0	204	04/15/1985	3	Florida
86 Coats, Daniel	TE	6-3	255	04/16/1984	4	Brigham Young
80 Coffman, Chase	TE	6-6	245	11/10/1986	2	Missouri
12 Cosby, Quan	WR	5-11	205	12/23/1982	2	Texas
17 Davis, Chris	WR	5-10	181	01/23/1984	3	Florida State
46 Harris, Clark	TE	6-5	256	07/10/1984	3	Rutgers
49 Hill, Darius	TE	6-7	247	08/26/1985	1	Ball State
18 Jones, Matt	WR	6-6	218	04/22/1983	5	Arkansas
85 Ochocinco, Chad	WR	6-1	192	01/09/1978	10	Oregon State
14 Purify, Maurice	WR	6-3	226	01/17/1986	2	Nebraska
89 Simpson, Jerome	WR	6-2	185	02/04/1986	3	Coastal Carolina

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
68 Fanene, Jonathan	DT	6-4	291	03/19/1982	6	Utah
91 Geathers, Robert	DE	6-3	272	08/11/1983	7	Georgia
95 Harris, Orien	DT	6-3	300	06/03/1983	4	Miami (FL)
93 Johnson, Michael	DE	6-7	260	02/07/1987	2	Georgia Tech
99 Johnson, Tank	DT	6-3	300	12/07/1981	7	Washington
69 McDonald, Clinton	DT	6-2	283	01/06/1987	1	Memphis
98 Odom, Antwan	DE	6-5	260	09/24/1981	7	Alabama
94 Peko, Domata	DT	6-3	325	11/27/1984	5	Michigan State
92 Rucker, Frostee	DE	6-3	280	09/14/1983	5	USC
90 Sims, Pat	DT	6-2	320	11/29/1985	3	Auburn

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
42 Crocker, Chris	S	5-11	200	03/09/1980	8	Marshall
29 Hall, Leon	CB	5-11	199	12/09/1984	4	Michigan
34 Hebert, Kyries	S	6-3	220	10/09/1980	3	Louisiana-Lafayette
Jones, Adam	CB	5-10	186	09/30/1983	5	West Virginia
20 Jones, David	CB	6-0	193	09/19/1985	4	Wingate
22 Joseph, Johnathan	CB	5-11	192	04/16/1984	5	South Carolina
44 Murray, Rico	CB	5-11	202	08/21/1987	1	Kent State
41 Ndukwe, Chinedum	S	6-2	220	03/04/1985	4	Notre Dame
43 Nelson, Tom	S	6-0	200	12/04/1986	2	Illinois State
26 Ratliff, Keiwan	CB	5-11	188	04/19/1981	7	Florida
24 Smith, Antonio	CB	5-9	190	06/12/1984	2	Ohio State
25 Trent, Morgan	CB	6-1	188	12/14/1985	2	Michigan
31 Williams, Roy	S	6-0	229	08/14/1980	9	Oklahoma
27 Willingham, DeAngelo	S	6-0	200	01/05/1987	1	Tennessee

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
52 Hodge, Abdul	LB	6-0	236	09/09/1982	5	Iowa
53 Jeanty, Rashad	LB	6-2	245	04/17/1983	5	UCF
59 Johnson, Brandon	LB	6-5	245	04/05/1983	5	Louisville
57 Jones, Dhani	LB	6-1	240	02/22/1978	11	Michigan
58 Maualuga, Rey	LB	6-2	249	01/20/1987	2	USC
55 Rivers, Keith	LB	6-2	241	05/05/1986	3	USC
51 Skuta, Dan	LB	6-2	251	04/21/1986	2	Grand Valley State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Huber, Kevin	P	6-2	224	07/16/1985	2	Cincinnati
2 Nugent, Mike	K	5-10	190	03/02/1982	6	Ohio State
3 Rayner, Dave	K	6-2	210	10/26/1982	5	Michigan State

» **MARVIN LEWIS,** *Head coach*
Bob Bratkowski, offensive coordinator; **Mike Zimmer**, defensive coordinator; **Darrin Simmons**, special teams coordinator; **Paul Alexander**, assistant head coach/offensive line; **Paul Guenther**, assistant special teams/assistant linebackers; **Jim Anderson**, running backs; **Jonathan Hayes**, tight ends; **Mike Sheppard**, wide receivers; **Ken Zampese**, quarterbacks; **Kevin Coyle**, secondary; **Louie Cioffi**, secondary assistant; **Jeff FitzGerald**, linebackers; **Jay Hayes**, defensive line

breaks on the ball. And they're skilled in man coverage because the duo can turn and run with the league's fastest receivers and do a good job of tracking the ball in the air.

The ingredient that makes the corners even more special is their willingness to support the run. Both are tenacious tacklers, as are Williams and Crocker.

The problem with the aging safeties is their struggle with injuries. Crocker (ankle) missed the final three games of 2009 and Williams has been limited to seven games in two years because of a fractured right forearm.

Chinedum Ndukwe is a big, physical safety who started 12 games in place of Williams. Ndukwe is a tremendous athlete and good run stuffer, but his coverage skills need to improve.

Adam "Pacman" Jones, who was signed to a two-year deal in May but hasn't played in the NFL since 2008, provides depth at cornerback. **GRADE: A-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

There is inconsistency in both the kicking and return game, which makes special teams a big area of concern.

Kickers Dave Rayner and Mike Nugent will compete to replace Shayne Graham, who sealed his fate by missing field goals of 35 and 28 yards in a 24-14 home playoff loss to the Jets.

Punter Kevin Huber, a fifth-round draft pick in 2009, showed flashes of brilliance with his strong left foot. Even though he endured his share of rookie mistakes, Huber has a bright future.

The club used six kickoff return men last year, and Scott was the most effective with a 31.5-yard average that included a 96-yard touchdown. Shipley will compete with Quan Cosby for the punt return job.

Long snapper Clark Harris is a keeper because he brings stability to coach Darrin Simmons' unit. **GRADE: D**

BOTTOM LINE

The additional weapons on offense should allow Palmer to raise the level of the passing game, making the unit more balanced and explosive. The rock-solid defense has the veteran talent and leadership needed to be strong again, but Cincinnati's special teams need retooling.

The Bengals bear the terrible burden of having the longest current playoff victory drought in the NFL. But it's uncertain if the team can repeat as division champs or even get into the postseason to try and break its winless streak.

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MARVIN LEWIS

Lewis is a conservative head coach who prefers winning with no tricks or gimmicks. As the former defensive coordinator in Baltimore and Washington, he learned that nothing strikes fear in the heart of a defense like a ball thrown deep and over the top of the secondary. He wants a fast, physical defense that causes turnovers. Lewis also wants an offense that builds leads with the passing attack and then squeezes opponents with a clock-killing ground game in the fourth quarter.

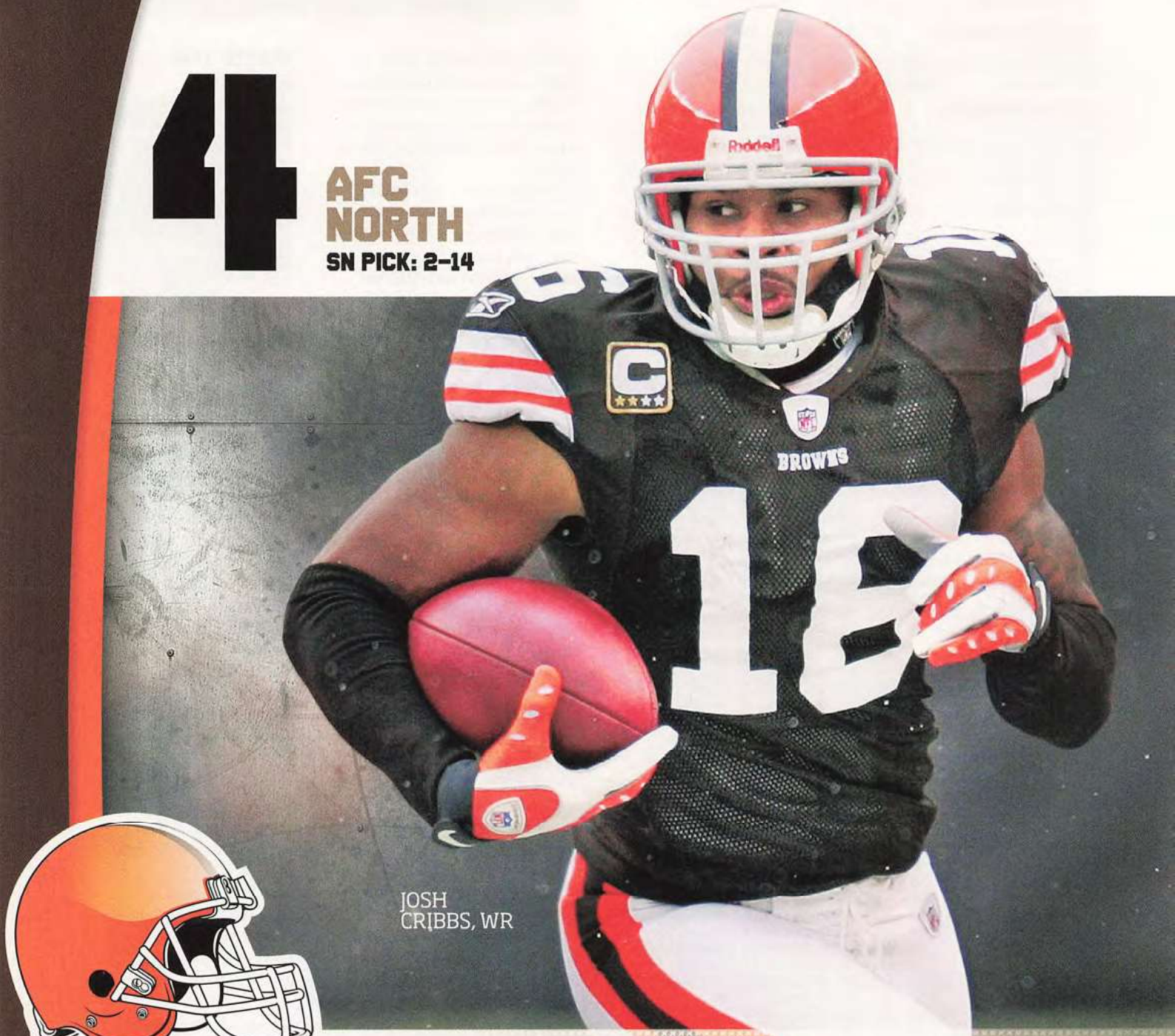
81
FINAL GRADE

STEADY
STOCK REPORT

4

AFC NORTH

SN PICK: 2–14



JOSH CRIBBS, WR

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Holmgren hopes to reverse 'Dawg Days' in Cleveland

By Steve Doerschuk, *Canton (Ohio) Repository*

It's a wonder the word "optimism" hasn't been obliterated from the dictionary of Browns fans. Of the NFL's 32 teams, Cleveland is one of four never to reach a Super Bowl. And the Browns haven't tasted an NFL playoff win since 1994. The team has been 6-10 or worse six times since last reaching the postseason in 2002. Somehow, though, optimism is in bloom.

The reason is new president Mike Holmgren. An overwhelming majority of Browns fans seems to love him—even if the group hates what he's inherited. In consort with new general manager Tom Heckert, Holmgren made an immediate splash, attacking a sparse free-agent market, trading quarterbacks out, bringing quarterbacks in, etc.

Holmgren avoided a complete overhaul by keeping coach Eric Mangini, who was 1-11 at one point last year but won his final four games. Aside from left tackle Joe Thomas and special teams dynamo Josh Cribbs, there wasn't much to brag about. So Holmgren found quarterback Jake Delhomme, but won't ask him to work miracles. The team just wants to put together a credible season with a few wins. If that happens, Holmgren will have momentum for 2011.

OFFENSE

The Browns went for a New England look in 2009 with ex-Patriots assistant Brian Daboll calling plays, but the passing game was pathetic. Quarterbacks Brady Quinn and Derek Anderson both struggled with a receiving corps that wasn't up to NFL snuff. By the end of the year, the offense not only gave Jerome Harrison his first shot at being a No. 1 running back, but also pushed him unusually hard.

Even with Harrison, the passing game needs to become a focal point. Look for the Browns to implement facets of the West Coast attack that helped Holmgren reach three Super Bowls as a head coach.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ Delhomme finally became an NFL starter in Carolina after six years of being an understudy, and led the team to a Super Bowl. In need of a turnaround, the Browns are giving him a chance to prove he's not finished at age 35 after a miserable 2009. Delhomme was on his game as recently as 2008, when he led the Panthers to a 12-4 record, but his confidence took a hit when he threw five interceptions in a playoff loss to Arizona, which led to a downward spiral last season. The club thinks it can give Delhomme an environment that will restore his psyche. But until Delhomme proves he can make quick decisions and fit the ball into tight coverage as he once did, it's just a leap of faith.

If he's unable, 29-year-old Seneca Wallace, who spent six years with Holmgren in Seattle, will take his shot. Wallace's appearances over the last five years amount to one full season—he has passed for 3,547 career yards.

Third-round pick Colt McCoy could be the future of the franchise, which is why he'll sit out his rookie year and learn from the sidelines. **GRADE: C**

Running backs ▸▸ In 44 games covering mostly cameo appearances in four seasons, Harrison rushed 165 times for 749 yards. Then he ran 106 times for 561 yards in the final three games last year and broke Jim Brown's single-game franchise record with 286 yards at Kansas City.

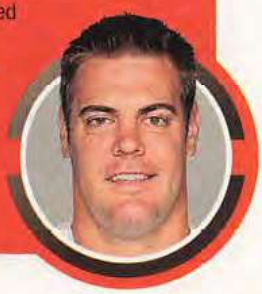
Still, with his small 5-9 frame, it would be unwise to heap too much work on him. But he projects well in a two-back platoon.

That's where second-round draft pick

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

MATT ROTH — **LB**

Roth looks too big to move as well as he does. After being waived by the Dolphins, he's meshed nicely with the Mangini regime and reminded everyone that he was once a highly touted second-round draft choice.



PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Jake Delhomme Seneca Wallace
FB	Lawrence Vickers Peyton Hillis
RB	Jerome Harrison Montario Hardesty
LT	Joe Thomas John St. Clair
LG	Eric Steinbach Billy Yates
C	Alex Mack Eric Ghiaciuc
RG	Floyd Womack Scott Kooistra
RT	Tony Pashos John St. Clair
TE	Ben Watson Robert Royal
WR	Mohamed Massaquoi Josh Cribbs
WR	Brian Robiskie Chansi Stuckey
	DEFENSE
LE	Kenyon Coleman Brian Schaefering
NT	Shaun Rogers Ahtyba Rubin
RE	Robaire Smith C.J. Mosley
OLB	Matt Roth Jason Trusnik
ILB	D'Qwell Jackson Kaluka Maiava
ILB	Scott Fujita Eric Barton
OLB	David Bowens Chris Gocong
LCB	Eric Wright Coye Francies
SS	Abram Elam Nick Sorensen
FS	T.J. Ward Mike Adams
RCB	Joe Haden Sheldon Brown
	SPECIALISTS
K	Phil Dawson
P	Dave Zastudil
KR	Josh Cribbs
PR	Josh Cribbs
LS	Ryan Pontbriand

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 5-11 HOME: 3-5

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/browns
www.clevelandbrowns.com

STADIUM
Cleveland Browns Stadium
Capacity: 73,200 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 440-824-3434
Training Camp: Cleveland Browns Training and Administrative Complex, Berea, Ohio; 440-891-5000

OPPOSITE PAGE: AKRON BEACON JOURNAL / MCT / NEWSCOM

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Browns)

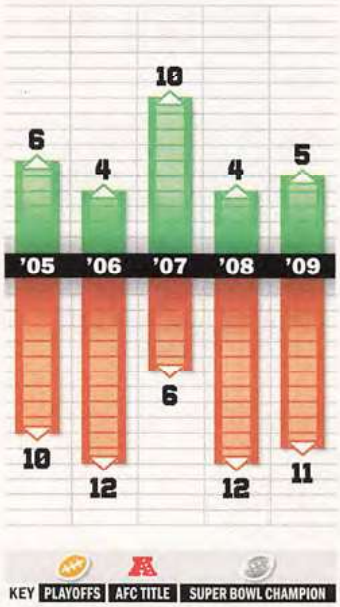
"Being a defensive guy, I have (a) better grip on their offense, but who knows what to expect from their offense? They still had Braylon Edwards when we played them last year. I wasn't super worried about him, which is just the way you have to think. But you could tell he was fairly polished, a lot further along than some of their young guys. ...

"It's hard to know what to make of them now. (Jerome) Harrison wasn't even playing much then. They were bouncing back and forth between (Brady) Quinn and (Derek) Anderson, and now they have a different quarterback. ...

"We're not in the same conference, but I've played against Jake (Delhomme). He's a pretty savvy guy, a real competitive dude. ...

"It was hard to tell what they were trying to do with their offense last year. I just took it play to play, and they didn't do a lot against us. Delhomme gets your attention a little more. I assume they'll be more organized. Between Jake and their coordinator (Brian Daboll), they should have more of a clue."

5-YEAR RECORD: 29-51



Montario Hardesty comes in. Hardesty isn't as elusive as Harrison, but is just as fast and is about 20 pounds heavier. **GRADE: C+**

Receivers ▸▸ Mangini went out on a limb in spending a high second-round pick on wideout Brian Robiskie in 2009. Then he let Robiskie sit on the sideline despite the Browns' weak receiver corps. Robiskie might lack the speed and quickness to get open, but the team hopes it's just a matter of pairing him with a veteran quarterback.

Mohamed Massaquoi, another 2009 draft pick, became the Browns' No. 1 receiver after an Oct. 7 trade sent Braylon Edwards to the Jets. He has good size, speed and quickness and keeps improving as a route runner, but is not a burner and dropped too many balls last season.

Cribbs, sensational as a return man, got the longest look of his career as a wideout in 2009 (he started 12 games), but his chemistry with Quinn and Anderson was nonexistent. Mangini hasn't written him off, though, as he wants to see if Delhomme can translate Cribbs' magic as a return man into a receiving role.

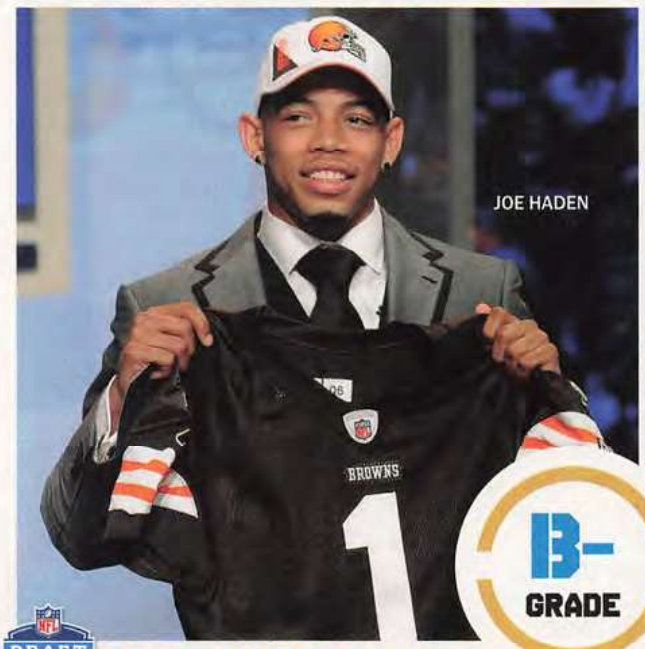
Chansi Stuckey, a piece in the Edwards trade, played a lot but was mediocre. Free-agent pickup Ben Watson should upgrade the team's receiving ability at tight end, although he hasn't lived up to his status as a Patriots' first-round pick. Watson and Robert Royal provide a good blocking tandem at tight end. **GRADE: D**

Offensive line ▸▸ Thomas and left guard Eric Steinbach are in an odd situation. Together, they are the team's greatest strength, yet they butted heads some with Mangini last year. With Holmgren in place as a hands-on president and Mangini no longer in charge of personnel, it will be easier for guys like Thomas and Steinbach to focus solely on football.

Center Alex Mack started all 16 games last year, and has the size and agility to become a Pro Bowl player one day. Still, Cleveland signed former Bengals starter Eric Ghiaciuc to back up Mack for insurance.

Right guard has been a problem since

DRAFT REPORT



▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	7	Joe Haden	CB	5-11	193	Florida
2	6	T.J. Ward	S	5-11	211	Oregon
2	27	Montario Hardesty	RB	6-0	225	Tennessee
3	21	Colt McCoy	QB	6-1	216	Texas
3	28	Shawn Lauvao	G	6-3	315	Arizona State
5	29	Larry Asante	S	6-0	212	Nebraska
6	8	Carlton Mitchell	WR	6-3	215	South Florida
6	17	Clifton Geathers	DE	6-8	299	South Carolina

The Browns chose a great first-rounder in **Joe Haden**. One of the best cornerbacks in the draft, Haden has the playing speed to be elite. However, he will need to improve his backpedal to maximize his potential.

In the second round, Cleveland reached by grabbing **T.J. Ward**. The safety is solid in run support but struggles in pass coverage and projects as a backup only. The team's other second-round pick, **Montario Hardesty**, has natural instincts and cutting ability. **Colt McCoy** can throw, but his ability to scramble is lacking. As a result, he'll likely end up as a Gary Kubiak-type backup who has a long NFL career. Offensive tackle **Shawn Lauvao** is versatile and may move to guard, where he could be a starter. The Browns got a real steal in sixth-round pick **Carlton Mitchell**. With improvement, he could be the big-play receiver fans love watching.

UPI / NEWSCOM

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	20-34	Minnesota Vikings
09/20	L	6-27	at Denver Broncos
09/27	L	3-34	at Baltimore Ravens
10/04	L	20-23	Cincinnati Bengals
10/11	W	6-3	at Buffalo Bills
10/18	L	14-27	at Pittsburgh Steelers
10/25	L	3-31	Green Bay Packers
11/01	L	6-30	at Chicago Bears
11/16	L	0-16	Baltimore Ravens
11/22	L	37-38	at Detroit Lions
11/29	L	7-16	at Cincinnati Bengals
12/06	L	23-30	San Diego Chargers
12/10	W	13-6	Pittsburgh Steelers
12/20	W	41-34	at Kansas City Chiefs
12/27	W	23-9	Oakland Raiders
01/03	W	23-17	Jacksonville Jaguars

WON 5, LOST 11

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Harrison	194	862	4.4	71	5
Lewis	143	500	3.5	18	0
Cribbs	55	381	6.9	37	1
Jennings	63	220	3.5	16	1
Quinn	20	98	4.9	24	1
Davis	9	15	1.7	5	0
Anderson	10	8	0.8	3	2
Stuckey	2	6	3.0	6	0
Hodges	1	0	0.0	0	0
Massaquoi	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
BROWNS	498	2087	4.2	71	10
OPPONENTS	506	2314	4.6	64	15

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Massaquoi	34	624	18.4	59	3
Harrison	34	220	6.5	18	2
Furrey	23	170	7.4	22	0
Cribbs	20	135	6.8	35	1
Stuckey	19	198	10.4	40	1
Moore	12	158	13.2	24	0
Royal	11	134	12.2	29	1
Heiden	10	73	7.3	14	1
Jennings	9	56	6.2	19	0
Lewis	8	88	11.0	19	0
Vickers	8	27	3.4	12	1
Robiskie	7	106	15.1	43	0
Gaines	5	59	11.8	24	1
Estandia	4	45	11.3	18	0
Davis	4	5	1.3	2	0
Quinn	1	18	18.0	18	0
BROWNS	219	2076	9.5	59	11
OPPONENTS	313	3915	12.5	75	22

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Quinn	256	136	1339	8	7
Anderson	182	81	888	3	10
Cribbs	4	1	18	0	1
Dawson	1	1	10	0	0
BROWNS	443	219	2076	11	18
OPPONENTS	526	313	3915	22	10

SACKS BROWNS 40, OPPONENTS 30

Wimbley 6.5, Bowens 5.5, Roth 4, Williams 4, Benard 3.5, Maiava 2.5, Trusnik 2.5, Rogers 2, Coleman 1.5, Schaefering 1.5, Smith 1.5, Adams 1, Elam 1, McDonald 1, Pool 1, Poteat 1

the Browns came back from expansion in 1999. Rex Hadnot might have been the answer in 2009, but injuries wrecked his season and he left in free agency. New starter Floyd Womack was no more than adequate in 2009, but he's their only option. Right tackle John St. Clair, 32, showed his age last season after starting 14 games. He will likely be replaced by free-agent pickup Tony Pashos. **GRADE: B**

DEFENSE

Mangini and defensive coordinator Rob Ryan loved brainstorming game plans when they were together in New England, and the two work well together now.

Ryan enjoys trying to outsmart offensive coordinators with creative twists, stunts and blitzes. Even though he didn't have an elite pass rusher in 2009, Ryan milked 40 sacks out of 16 different players. Look for him to take more chances if he gains more confidence in this year's revamped secondary.

Defensive line ▸▸ Shaun Rogers might be the most incredible 350-pound athlete alive, but coaches question his consistency. The Browns ranked 32nd in total defense last year when he suffered a season-ending ankle injury in Game 11. Then they improved to 31st and went 4-1 without him. The only Browns player to go to a Pro Bowl since 2001 faces a cloudy future, as he was arrested for carrying a loaded gun into an airport in April. If there is fallout from that, Cleveland has a safety net in Ahtyba Rubin, who replaced Rogers at the nose after he was injured.

Robaire Smith had one of his better seasons at end in 2009 after he got his rhythm back, having recovered from a 2008 Achilles injury. The other starting end, Kenyon Coleman, spent four years as a Dallas backup before jumping to the Jets as a starter in 2007.

Another ex-Jet, C.J. Mosley, wasn't as strong of a rotation man as the team hoped in 2009, partly due to an ankle injury that took him out for the final four games. Brian Schaefering brought a relentless intensity to the team's four-game winning streak to end the year. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸▸ This is an intriguing group with the kind of flexibility Mangini and Ryan remember from their Foxboro Sundays. Kamerion Wimbley was traded for a third-round draft pick in the offseason, meaning Matt Roth, a waiver-wire pickup in November, could emerge as the team's top outside linebacker.

Free-agent acquisition Scott Fujita, who started for the Super Bowl champion Saints last year, will use spring practices to see if he fits better at outside or inside linebacker. If he plays inside, Fujita will bring more speed and quickness than Eric Barton.

Last year's starting inside linebackers, Barton and D'Qwell Jackson, were disappointments. They began 2009 as co-captains who were intended to anchor a respectable unit, but spent the season on injured reserve.

Veteran David Bowens began last

INSIDE THE HEADSET

ERIC MANGINI

Mangini's coaching staff is mostly the same as it was in 2009. The team was much more apt to gamble on the defensive side, where Mangini's background lies. His tendency toward conservative offense and aggressive defense allows him to take only a few calculated gambles, but he might evolve under new team president Mike Holmgren.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	260.2	32
RUSHING	130.4	8
PASSING	129.8	32
SCORING	245	29
PUNT RETURNS	11.7	3
KICK RETURNS	24.2	7
RED ZONE TD %	43.6	28
TOTAL DEFENSE	389.3	31
AGAINST RUSH	144.6	28
AGAINST PASS	244.7	29
POINTS ALLOWED	375	21t
INTERCEPTIONS	10	29
SACKS	40	8t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-12	29

BROWNS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Clay Matthews Sr.** *(1978-93)* — **62.0**
2. **Michael Dean Perry** *(1988-94)* — **51.5**
3. **Rob Burnett** *(1990-95)* — **40.5**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Tampa Bay
SEPT. 12 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 2 Kansas City
SEPT. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 3 @ Baltimore
SEPT. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 4 Cincinnati
OCT. 3 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 5 Atlanta
OCT. 10 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 6 @ Pittsburgh
OCT. 17 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 7 @ New Orleans
OCT. 24 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

>> WEEK 8 OPEN DATE

WEEK 9 New England
NOV. 7 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 10 N.Y. Jets
NOV. 14 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 11 @ Jacksonville
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 12 Carolina
NOV. 28 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 13 @ Miami
DEC. 5 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 14 @ Buffalo
DEC. 12 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 15 @ Cincinnati
DEC. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 16 Baltimore
DEC. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 17 Pittsburgh
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

season starting outside and then moved inside when injuries hit, producing good results. Roth is set at one outside spot, while the other side might be handled by committee.

Chris Gocong, who arrived in a trade with the Eagles, will get a chance to prove his skills. Jason Trusnik looked like a find after arriving from the Jets in the Edwards deal. Undersized Kaluka Maiava, who played a lot as a rookie in the second half of last season, has the quickness and instincts to be a good nickel linebacker. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ▸▸ The Browns infused needed talent into their secondary by spending their first two draft picks on cornerback Joe Haden and safety T.J. Ward. That's in addition to the acquisition of cornerback Sheldon Brown, a longtime starter in Philadelphia. At 31, Brown might be slowing down, but he is an ironman, starting 95 of the last 96 games. He and Haden will battle in training camp to see who starts.

The No. 1 cornerback is Eric Wright, a 2007 draft pick who has panned out

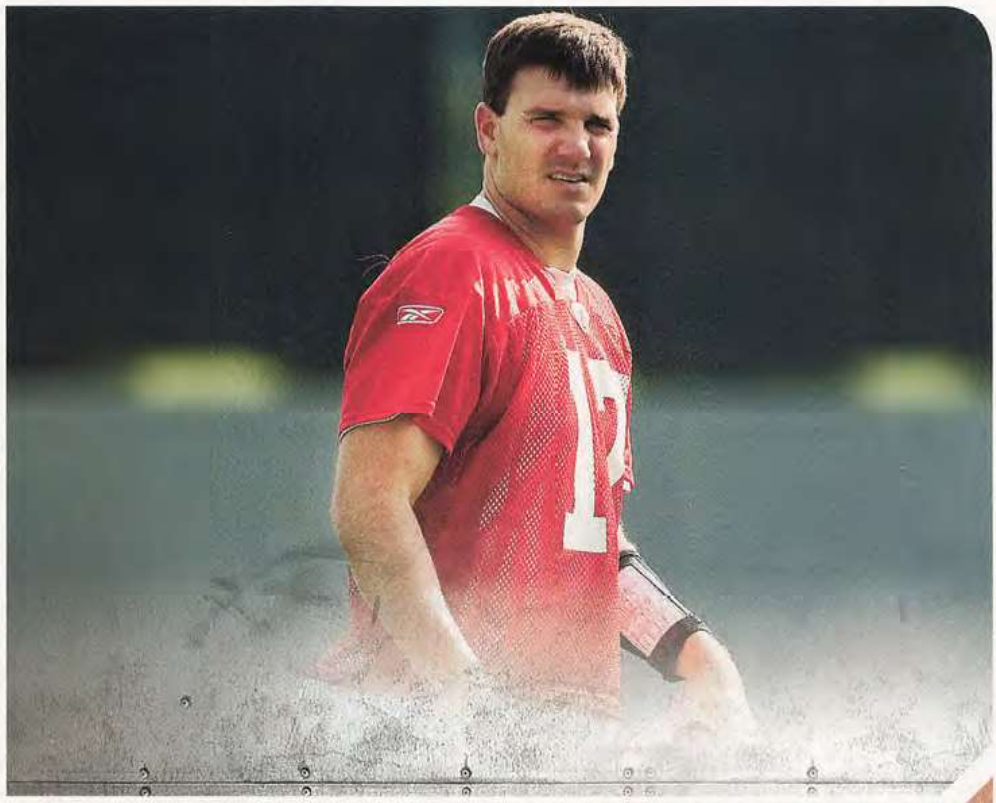
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

TE Benjamin Watson *(FA/Patriots)*, **QB Jake Delhomme** *(FA/Panthers)*, **LB Scott Fujita** *(FA/Saints)*, **OT Tony Pashos** *(FA/49ers)*, **QB Seneca Wallace** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **RB Peyton Hillis** *(trade/Broncos)*, **LB Chris Gocong** *(trade/Eagles)*, **CB Sheldon Brown** *(trade/Eagles)*, **C Eric Ghiaciuc** *(FA/Chargers)*, **TE Alex Smith** *(FA/Eagles)*, **CB DeAngelo Smith** *(FA/Lions)*

SUBTRACTIONS

G Rex Hadnot *(FA/Cardinals)*, **QB Derek Anderson** *(FA/Cardinals)*, **WR Donte' Stallworth** *(FA/Ravens)*, **RB Jamal Lewis** *(FA)*, **C Hank Fraley** *(FA/Rams)*, **CB Hank Poteat** *(FA)*, **S Brodney Pool** *(FA/Jets)*, **G Ryan Tucker** *(retired)*, **QB Brady Quinn** *(trade/Broncos)*, **LB Alex Hall** *(trade/Eagles)*, **DT Corey Williams** *(trade/Lions)*, **TE Michael Gaines** *(FA/Texans)*, **WR David Patten** *(FA/Patriots)*, **LB Kamerion Wimbley** *(trade/Raiders)*, **TE Steve Heiden** *(FA)*



CHRIS KEANE / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ... JAKE DELHOMME

(how a rival sizes him up)

"I don't know how much Jake Delhomme can do for the Browns. Maybe he has something left, but I look at him and think that Detroit didn't get too far with Jon Kitna. ...

"I've never quite decided whether Jake is a good-enough quarterback to take some of the chances he does. But he will take chances. He will try to win games. He doesn't want to be a game manager, from what I can tell. (Mohamed) Massaquoi and (Brian) Robiskie aren't rookies anymore, which will help. And they'll be with a quarterback who has been around, which will make a difference. ...

"Jake is a pretty good leader, a real solid guy. He brings more credibility than they had with Brady Quinn or Derek Anderson. That will matter if he has something left."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
17 Delhomme, Jake	QB	6-2	215	01/10/1975	12	Louisiana-Lafayette
5 Ratliff, Brett	QB	6-4	224	08/08/1985	2	Utah
15 Wallace, Seneca	QB	5-11	205	08/06/1980	8	Iowa State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
79 Capizzi, Jason	T	6-9	315	06/19/1985	3	Indiana (PA)
77 Ghiaciuc, Eric	C	6-4	303	05/28/1981	6	Central Michigan
74 Kooistra, Scott	T	6-6	335	10/14/1980	8	N.C. State
55 Mack, Alex	C	6-4	311	11/19/1985	2	California
75 Murray, Pat	G	6-3	310	10/31/1984	1	Truman State
77 Poshos, Tony	T	6-6	325	08/03/1980	8	Illinois
64 Pontbriand, Ryan	C	6-2	255	10/01/1979	8	Rice
78 St. Clair, John	T	6-6	320	07/15/1977	11	Virginia
65 Steinbach, Eric	G	6-6	295	04/04/1980	8	Iowa
73 Thomas, Joe	T	6-6	312	12/04/1984	4	Wisconsin
77 Womack, Floyd	G	6-4	328	11/15/1978	10	Mississippi State
68 Yates, Billy	G	6-2	305	04/15/1980	7	Texas A&M

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
29 Brown, Thomas	RB	5-8	200	05/15/1986	2	Georgia
44 Collins, Jed	RB	6-1	255	03/03/1986	1	Washington State
28 Davis, James	RB	5-11	218	01/01/1986	1	Clemson
35 Harrison, Jerome	RB	5-9	205	02/26/1983	5	Washington State
22 Hillis, Peyton	RB	6-2	250	01/21/1986	3	Arkansas
34 Jennings, Chris	RB	5-10	218	12/12/1985	2	Arizona
47 Vickers, Lawrence	RB	6-0	250	05/08/1983	5	Colorado

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
85 Allen, Jake	WR	6-4	196	01/18/1985	2	Mississippi College
16 Cribbs, Josh	WR	6-1	215	06/09/1983	6	Kent State
83 Estandia, Greg	TE	6-8	265	11/18/1982	4	UNLV
11 Massaquoi, Mohamed	WR	6-2	207	11/24/1986	2	Georgia
89 Moore, Evan	TE	6-6	247	01/03/1985	1	Stanford
80 Robiskie, Brian	WR	6-3	209	12/03/1987	2	Ohio State
84 Royal, Robert	TE	6-4	257	05/15/1978	9	LSU
Smith, Alex	TE	6-4	258	05/22/1982	6	Stanford
12 Steptoe, Syndric	WR	5-9	200	12/06/1984	2	Arizona
88 Stuckey, Chansi	WR	6-0	196	10/04/1983	4	Clemson
84 Watson, Benjamin	TE	6-3	255	12/18/1980	7	Georgia

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
62 Adams, Titus	DT	6-4	305	01/28/1983	2	Nebraska
90 Coleman, Kenyon	DE	6-5	295	04/10/1979	9	UCLA
60 Grennan, Keith	DE	6-4	298	05/20/1984	2	Eastern Washington
61 Lewis, Jonathan	DT	6-1	312	07/12/1984	2	Virginia Tech
69 Mosley, C.J.	DT	6-2	305	08/06/1983	6	Missouri
67 Robinson, Derreck	DE	6-4	295	03/03/1982	5	Iowa
92 Rogers, Shaun	DT	6-4	350	03/12/1979	10	Texas
71 Rubin, Ahtyba	DT	6-2	330	07/25/1986	3	Iowa State
91 Schaefering, Brian	DT	6-5	280	08/20/1983	2	Illinois
98 Smith, Robaire	DE	6-4	310	11/15/1977	11	Michigan State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20 Adams, Mike	S	5-11	200	03/24/1981	7	Delaware
Bowie, John	CB	5-11	190	05/11/1984	4	Cincinnati
24 Brown, Sheldon	CB	5-10	200	03/19/1979	9	South Carolina
26 Elam, Abram	S	6-0	207	10/15/1981	5	Kent State
25 Francies, Coye	CB	6-0	185	11/15/1986	2	San Jose State
30 Lawson, Gerard	CB	5-10	195	01/12/1985	3	Oregon State
22 McDonald, Brandon	CB	5-10	195	08/26/1985	4	Memphis
33 Richardson, Matterral	CB	6-0	197	06/30/1985	1	Arkansas
37 Roberson, Chris	CB	5-11	190	06/03/1983	4	Eastern Michigan
38 Robinson, Ramzee	CB	5-10	186	02/20/1984	4	Alabama
Smith, DeAngelo		5-11	198	07/17/1982	2	Cincinnati
27 Sorensen, Nick	S	6-3	210	07/31/1978	10	Virginia Tech
41 Ventrone, Ray	S	5-10	200	10/21/1982	5	Villanova
24 Wright, Eric	CB	5-10	190	07/24/1985	4	UNLV

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Barton, Eric	LB	6-2	245	09/29/1977	12	Maryland
58 Benard, Marcus	LB	6-2	256	07/26/1985	2	Jackson State
96 Bowens, David	LB	6-3	265	07/03/1977	12	Western Illinois
59 Brown, Titus	LB	6-3	250	03/27/1986	2	Mississippi State
54 Costanzo, Blake	LB	6-2	235	04/14/1984	4	Lafayette
55 Fujita, Scott	LB	6-5	250	04/28/1979	9	California
51 Gocong, Chris	LB	6-2	263	11/16/1983	5	Cal Poly
52 Jackson, D'Qwell	LB	6-0	240	09/26/1983	5	Maryland
56 Maiava, Kaluka	LB	6-0	229	03/22/1987	2	USC
53 Roth, Matt	LB	6-4	275	10/14/1982	6	Iowa
93 Trusnik, Jason	LB	6-4	250	06/06/1984	4	Ohio Northern
57 Veikune, David	LB	6-2	257	12/12/1985	2	Hawaii

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Dawson, Phil	K	5-11	200	01/23/1975	12	Texas
2 Hodges, Reggie	P	6-0	220	04/18/1984	4	Ball State
15 Zastudil, Dave	P	6-3	220	10/26/1978	9	Ohio

» ERIC MANGINI, *Head coach*
Brian Daboll, offensive coordinator; **Rob Ryan**, defensive coordinator; **Brad Seely**, assistant head coach/special teams coordinator; **George Warhop**, offensive line; **Gary Brown**, running backs; **Steve Hagen**, tight ends; **George McDonald**, wide receivers; **Carl Smith**, quarterbacks; **Jerome Henderson**, secondary; **Matt Eberflus**, linebackers; **Bryan Cox**, defensive line

BEN LIEBENBERG / AP

well. Wright is quick and confident and able to blanket almost any receiver. Strong safety Abram Elam and free safety Mike Adams make up an adequate starting tandem, but one of them is likely to be pushed out by the versatile Ward. **GRADE: B-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Cribbs might be the best return man in football with his knack for slicing toward the small crease that turns into a big kickoff return. On punts, he treats fair catches as an affront to his manhood. He made just three last year.

Phil Dawson has been a steady kicker for 11 years and seems to have plenty of life left in his 35-year-old leg. It's hard to gauge him as a pressure kicker, though, because the Browns have only made the playoffs twice in his tenure.

Punter Dave Zastudil has recovered from an injury that interrupted the career year he was having in 2009. His greatest asset is directional punting and a knack for avoiding touchbacks. Ryan Pontbriand is an elite long snapper. **GRADE: A-**

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Jerome Harrison erupted for 561 rushing yards and five touchdowns in Cleveland's last three games, but the Browns face eight top-10 run defenses from 2009. Don't overvalue Harrison.

BUY
Mohamed Massaquoi
WR

SELL
Jake Delhomme
QB

SLEEPER
Montario Hardesty
RB

BOTTOM LINE

It's one thing for the hiring of Holmgren to have energized the fan base, but it's another for such a move to have changed the thinking of the players, scouts and coaches. Owner Randy Lerner wanted a credible football authority to take charge and change the way his operation is perceived. Mission accomplished.

It's hard to assemble a roster talented enough to break out of a culture of losing, but Holmgren seems to be chipping away at it so aggressively that he may succeed.

With an aging quarterback coming off a miserable year and too few offensive weapons, it's doubtful the Browns will surprise this year.

But at least Holmgren has made people look—and made the players believe.

63
FINAL GRADE

UP
STOCK REPORT

1

AFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 12-4

REGGIE WAYNE, WR

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Talented Colts look to stabilize after busy offseason of change

By Mike Chappell, *Indianapolis Star*

The Indianapolis Colts have taken consistency to ridiculous levels: an NFL-record seven consecutive seasons with at least 12 wins and a league-best eight straight playoff appearances.

But the winds of change now threaten that run of excellence.

After coming up short against the New Orleans Saints in Super Bowl 44, longtime offensive line coach Howard Mudd retired and veteran offensive coordinator Tom Moore assumed a senior consultant's role and was replaced by Clyde Christensen. Management released starting guard Ryan Lilja, versatile defensive lineman Raheem Brock and backup quarterback Jim Sorgi.

The changes were dramatic for an organization that spends each offseason tweaking, not overhauling.

"To have some new blood, to be able to transition a little bit with some changes, is a good thing," owner James Irsay says. "It keeps things fresh and brings some newness to the table.

"Obviously it needs to be good change. It's got the potential to be our best team."

OFFENSE

The transition from Moore to Christensen has been ongoing. Don't expect any dramatic changes in philosophy now that Christensen will wear the headset on game day and be in quarterback Peyton Manning's ear.

While management is intent on upgrading a substandard running game, everything revolves around Manning and the passing game. The Colts pass to set up the run, even though they do the latter sparingly. The idea isn't to achieve balance; rather, it's to be able to run when necessary, particularly in short-yardage situations.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ Manning is 34 years old and entering his 13th season as the face of the franchise, and there's no hint he's slowing down. He's coming off one of the best seasons of his career: an NFL-record fourth MVP, a second trip to the Super Bowl and a 10th Pro Bowl.

Manning's influence on the team, or its reliance on him, was never stronger than last year. In the season opener, he lost his No. 2 receiving option (Anthony Gonzalez) to a season-ending knee injury. That forced Manning to incorporate rookie Austin Collie and unproven receiver Pierre Garcon into the mix.

Complicating matters was a running game that never got untracked. For the offense to remain efficient, Manning had to produce. He responded with a 10th season of at least 4,000 passing yards along with 33 touchdowns against 16 interceptions and a 99.9 passer rating.

Manning underwent surgery in March to address a pinched nerve in his neck but was able to participate in the offseason conditioning program. It's imperative for Manning to maintain his ironman status (192 consecutive regular-season starts).

Sorgi was released during the offseason, leaving 2009 sixth-round draft pick Curtis Painter as the backup. In two late-season appearances as a rookie, Painter struggled mightily. **GRADE: A**

Running backs ▸▸ If management follows through on its commitment to upgrade the run-blocking phase of the offensive line, ample talent is on hand to capitalize.

At the top of the depth chart is a pair of former first-round draft picks. Joseph Addai, who has led the team in rushing in each of his four seasons, is a slasher with a nice burst through the line, while Donald Brown brings power, acceleration and big-play capabilities.

Individually, it's doubtful if either can hold up as a 20-carry-per-game feature back. Addai has missed only six games in four seasons but has been bothered by

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

DONALD BROWN — RB

The 2009 first-round draft pick will again share time with veteran Joseph Addai, but he provides the big-play capabilities Addai lacks. Brown runs tough between the tackles and possesses breakaway speed.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Peyton Manning Curtis Painter
RB	Joseph Addai Donald Brown
LT	Charlie Johnson Tony Ugoh
LG	Andy Alleman Jaimie Thomas
C	Jeff Saturday Jamey Richard
RG	Mike Pollak Kyle DeVan
RT	Ryan Diem Adam Terry
TE	Dallas Clark Jacob Tamme
TE	Gijon Robinson Brody Eldridge
WR	Anthony Gonzalez Austin Collie
WR	Reggie Wayne Pierre Garcon
	DEFENSE
LE	Robert Mathis Keyunta Dawson
LT	Antonio Johnson Eric Foster
RT	Dan Muir Fili Moala
RE	Dwight Freeney Jerry Hughes
SLB	Philip Wheeler Cody Glenn
MLB	Gary Brackett Pat Angerer
WLB	Clint Session Ramon Humber
LCB	Kelvin Hayden Jacob Lacey
SS	Bob Sanders Melvin Bullitt
FS	Antoine Bethea Jamie Silva
RCB	Jerraud Powers Terrail Lambert
	SPECIALISTS
K	Adam Vinatieri
P	Pat McAfee
KR	Ray Fisher
PR	Ray Fisher
LS	Justin Snow

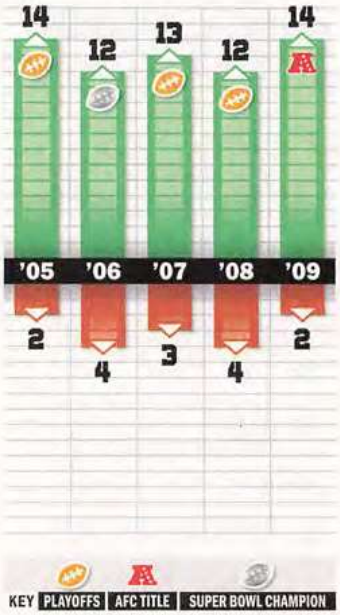
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 14-2 HOME: 7-1

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/colts
www.colts.com

STADIUM
Lucas Oil Stadium
Capacity: 63,000 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 317-299-4946
Training Camp: TBD

OPPOSITE PAGE: ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

5-YEAR RECORD: 65–15



four seasons but has been bothered by a variety of minor injuries. Brown was limited to 11 regular-season games as a rookie due to shoulder and chest injuries.

Mike Hart represents a competent No. 3 option. He's undersized (5-9, 206 pounds) but tenacious in short-yardage situations.

What the group lacks is a bona fide fullback. Intent on maximizing the roster, management has relied on a defensive tackle or linebacker to serve as a lead blocker in short-yardage situations. Not surprisingly, the results have been mixed. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸▸ Manning might need two footballs and five-quarter games to keep his supporting cast happy. There will be quality and quantity at his disposal as he directs one of the league's premier passing attacks.

Reggie Wayne, the old man of the group at 31, returns after posting his sixth consecutive 1,000-yard campaign and earning a fourth straight Pro Bowl berth. Over the past six seasons he has averaged 88.6 receptions, 1,249 yards and nine touchdowns.

Wayne, though, is just the tip of a deep corps that includes Dallas Clark, who earned his first Pro Bowl berth and set single-season club records for tight ends with 100 catches and 1,106 yards in '09.

Garcon and Collie emerged as solid complements to Wayne, combining for 107 catches, 1,441 yards and 11 touchdowns. The team's 2007 first-round draft pick, Gonzalez is expected to make a full recovery and present an enviable dilemma for Manning and Christensen: how to keep so many proven players happy. **GRADE: A**

Offensive line ▸▸ No area is subject to more change than this unit in 2010. Intent on upgrading a running game that ranked No. 31 and No. 32, respectively, the past two seasons, management is committed to fielding a bigger, stronger unit this season. No longer will smaller, quicker, more athletic linemen suffice.

Lilja was released, and that was the first of several moves. Left tackle Charlie Johnson, center Jeff Saturday and right tackle Ryan Diem should enter training camp as the starters at those positions, but the two guard spots are wide open.

Look for 2009 seventh-round draft pick Jaimie Thomas, 2008 second-rounder Mike Pollak, Kyle DeVan, Jamey Richard and free-agent pickup Andy Alleman to stage a battle royale during camp for playing time.

While some change was necessary because of deficient run blocking (particularly in short-yardage situations), this unit has had few peers when it's come to protecting Manning. The pass protection allowed just 11 sacks last season, tops in the NFL. **GRADE: C**

▸ DEFENSE

There still are Tampa 2 tendencies,

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	363.1	9
RUSHING	80.9	32
PASSING	282.2	2
SCORING	416	7
PUNT RETURNS	5.2	28
KICK RETURNS	22.2	18
RED ZONE TD %	66.0	2
TOTAL DEFENSE	339.2	18
AGAINST RUSH	126.5	24
AGAINST PASS	212.7	14
POINTS ALLOWED	307	8
INTERCEPTIONS	16	15
SACKS	34	16t
TURNOVER DIFF.	2	13t

COLTS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1	**Dwight Freeney** *(2002-present)*	**84.0**
2	**Robert Mathis** *(2003-present)*	**63.0**
3	**Duane Bickett** *(1985-93)*	**50.0**

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

With Peyton Manning, you get consistency and elite production at an erratic fantasy position. Don't hesitate to spend big here if you want a reliable quarterback.

BUY
Dallas Clark
TE

SELL
Austin Collie
WR

SLEEPER
Pierre Garcon
WR

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Colts)

"I think they've been able to put things in place, much like the San Francisco 49ers had and the Steelers have been able to do. It's a situation where your faces change and sometimes the coaching changes, yet the system pretty much stays in place. The fundamentals are in place all the way down. They've had revisions and things like that, but nothing drastic in how they approach things. That enables you that when you graduate a player based on age or whatever the reason, you plug in a new guy and you don't miss much. ...

"But having said that, so much of it is tied to Peyton Manning. It's simple, but there's a degree of responsibility and accountability because he's the guy out in front. You can't urge somebody else to do what you won't do. When your best players are your best workers, it gives you a hell of a chance to be a good football team."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	14-12	Jacksonville Jaguars
09/21	W	27-23	at Miami Dolphins
09/27	W	31-10	at Arizona Cardinals
10/04	W	34-17	Seattle Seahawks
10/11	W	31-9	at Tennessee Titans
10/25	W	42-6	at St. Louis Rams
11/01	W	18-14	San Francisco 49ers
11/08	W	20-17	Houston Texans
11/15	W	35-34	New England Patriots
11/22	W	17-15	at Baltimore Ravens
11/29	W	35-27	at Houston Texans
12/06	W	27-17	Tennessee Titans
12/13	W	28-16	Denver Broncos
12/17	W	35-31	at Jacksonville Jaguars
12/27	L	15-29	New York Jets
01/03	L	7-30	at Buffalo Bills

WON 14, LOST 2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Addai	219	828	3.8	21	10
Brown	78	281	3.6	45	3
Simpson	15	102	6.8	31	2
Hart	26	70	2.7	15	1
Clark	2	11	5.5	7	0
Garcon	2	10	5.0	17	0
Painter	3	4	1.3	10	0
Collie	2	1	0.5	2	0
Manning	19	-13	-0.7	3	0
COLTS	366	1294	3.5	45	16
OPPONENTS	467	2024	4.3	64	10

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wayne	100	1264	12.6	65	10
Clark	100	1106	11.1	80	10
Collie	60	676	11.3	39	7
Addai	51	336	6.6	25	3
Garcon	47	765	16.3	66	4
Brown	11	169	15.4	72	0
Robinson	9	62	6.9	19	0
Santi	8	107	13.4	31	0
Hart	5	54	10.8	14	0
Baskett	4	28	7.0	9	0
Tamme	3	35	11.7	21	0
Simpson	3	1	0.3	5	0
Cloherty	1	2	2.0	2	0
COLTS	402	4605	11.4	80	34
OPPONENTS	372	3403	9.1	63	19

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Manning	571	393	4500	33	16
Painter	28	8	83	0	2
Addai	1	1	22	1	0
Wayne	1	0	0	0	1
COLTS	601	402	4605	34	19
OPPONENTS	583	372	3403	19	16

SACKS — COLTS 34, OPPONENTS 11

Freeney 13.5, Mathis 9.5, Brock 3.5, Foster 2.5, Brackett 1, Johnson 1, Keiaho 1, Wheeler 1, Muir 0.5, Session 0.5

ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... PEYTON MANNING

(how a rival sizes him up)

"His first year was '98, and he starts right away as a rookie. You watch his maturity, his growth. I've seen him all the way through. I was at his workout at Tennessee. I've been a fan since that workout. It's just his command of the game and command of what's going on. (At his workout) he was a senior in college and he ran the workout with all of us sitting around at the side. He ran it all. That's the command he has. That's what I've tried to instill in our guy. Go over there and begin to emulate what they do."

but Larry Coyer utilized more man coverage in his first year as coordinator. Look for that to continue in 2010. And while Coyer inserted more blitzing into his game plans than in previous seasons, the key to the defense remains with the ability of the front four to generate most of the pressure in passing situations. Linebacker Gary Brackett and safety Melvin Bullitt were effective blitzers, but pass-rush standouts Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis make this unit click.

Defensive line ▸▸ Bookend pass rushers Freeney and Mathis are as good as it gets. Since becoming a tandem in 2003, they have combined for 134 sacks and 62 forced fumbles. Freeney (6-1, 268 pounds) and Mathis (6-2, 245) are undersized, but both have the reputation as difference-makers and game-changers.

But they need help, and the personnel department delivered it in first-round draft pick Jerry Hughes. He's a 6-2, 255-pound speedster whose burst produced 26.5 sacks in his final two seasons at TCU. Hughes should step in and provide quality support as a backup for Freeney or Mathis.

Daniel Muir and Antonio Johnson make up a pair of 300-plus pound interior starters who helped shore up the run defense last season. But the coaching staff would like 2009 second-round draft pick Fili Moala to make a significant leap and challenge for playing time. Moala was a nonfactor

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ Houston	SEPT. 12 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	N.Y. Giants	SEPT. 19 | 8:20	W / L
WEEK 3	@ Denver	SEPT. 26 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 4	@ Jacksonville	OCT. 3 | 4:05	W / L
WEEK 5	Kansas City	OCT. 10 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	@ Washington	OCT. 17 | 8:20	W / L
▸▸ WEEK 7	OPEN DATE		
WEEK 8	Houston	NOV. 1 | 8:30	W / L
WEEK 9	@ Philadelphia	NOV. 7 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 10	Cincinnati	NOV. 14 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ New England	NOV. 21 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 12	San Diego	NOV. 28 | 8:20	W / L
WEEK 13	Dallas	DEC. 5 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 14	@ Tennessee	DEC. 9 | 8:20	W / L
WEEK 15	Jacksonville	DEC. 19 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	@ Oakland	DEC. 26 | 4:05	W / L
WEEK 17	Tennessee	JAN. 2 | 1:00	W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

The significance of the offseason release of Brock can't be overstated. He was the defense's movable part, playing tackle, end and roving linebacker. The likely candidates to succeed Brock are Eric Foster and Keyunta Dawson. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸▸ Questions dealing with Gary Brackett's value on defense were answered when management broke from tradition and signed the starting middle linebacker and defensive captain to a five-year, $33 million contract during the offseason. The former undrafted rookie has developed into a perfect fit in the defense.

Brackett is flanked by a pair of incumbents in weakside starter Clint Session and strongside starter Philip Wheeler. Session has a nonstop motor and might be the defense's biggest hitter. Wheeler continues to grow into the position, and started seven games in '09.

Proven depth became a concern when Tyjuan Hagler and Freddy Keiaho, a pair of restricted free agents, were not retained. The addition of 2010 second-round draft pick Pat Angerer, who will back up Brackett, should ease some of the concerns. **GRADE: C+**

Secondary ▸▸ Position coach Alan Williams has a nice blend of veterans and young talent. The key is keeping everyone on the playing field.

That's especially true with safety Bob Sanders. The 2007 NFL Defensive Player of the Year was limited to only two games last season by knee and biceps injuries. He's now missed more regular-season games (49) than he's appeared in (47). Sanders is a fierce hitter and playmaker, but he must stay healthy.

The team has been able to compensate for Sanders' frequent absences, as Melvin Bullitt has emerged as a viable running mate

OFFSEASON MOVES

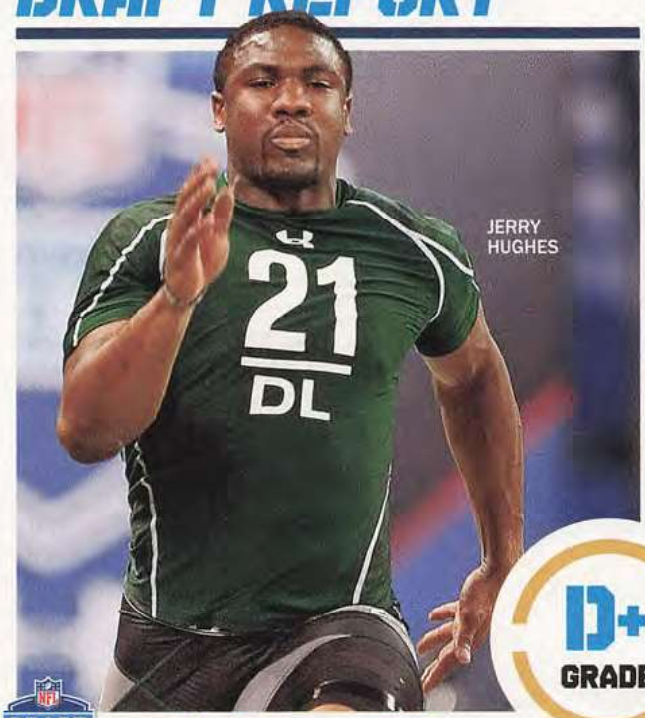
ADDITIONS

OT Adam Terry *(FA/Ravens)*, **G Andy Alleman** *(FA/Chiefs)*

SUBTRACTIONS

CB Marlin Jackson *(FA/Eagles)*, **DT Ed Johnson** *(FA/Panthers)*, **S Aaron Francisco** *(FA/Panthers)*, **CB Tim Jennings** *(FA/Bears)*, **LB Freddy Keiaho** *(FA/Jaguars)*, **QB Jim Sorgi** *(FA/Giants)*, **DE Raheem Brock** *(FA)*, **G Ryan Lilja** *(FA/Chiefs)*

DRAFT REPORT



D+ GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	31	Jerry Hughes	LB	6-2	255	TCU
2	31	Pat Angerer	LB	6-0	235	Iowa
3	30	Kevin Thomas	CB	6-0	192	USC
4	31	Jacques McClendon	G	6-2	308	Tennessee
5	31	Brody Eldridge	TE	6-5	261	Oklahoma
7	31	Ricardo Mathews	DT	6-2	290	Cincinnati
7	33	Kavell Conner	LB	6-1	242	Clemson
7	39	Ray Fisher	CB	5-8	172	Indiana

The Colts needed to protect themselves in case Dwight Freeney doesn't return from injury at 100 percent. So they added **Jerry Hughes**, an undersized yet explosive pass rusher who will work well in the Colts' defensive system. In the second round, Indianapolis fell in love with linebacker **Pat Angerer** for his intangibles and instincts. But he's not an ideal fit for the Colts' defense. The big gamble came in the third round, however, as Indy chose corner **Kevin Thomas**, a speedy back with consistency problems. Thomas also suffered a major knee injury during rookie minicamp and may miss the season.

The fourth and fifth rounds brought interesting prospects in **Jacques McClendon** and **Brody Eldridge**, respectively. Neither were well-known draftees, but they'll upgrade the Colts' offensive line in a season or two. Indianapolis made a shrewd move drafting Clemson linebacker Kavell Connor, a tough defender with the talent to be a starter if he can improve his technique. He's a great late-round developmental pick.

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
18 Manning, Peyton	QB	6-5	230	03/24/1976	13	Tennessee
7 Painter, Curtis	QB	6-4	230	06/24/1985	2	Purdue
16 Willy, Drew	QB	6-4	214	11/13/1986	1	Buffalo

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
62 Alleman, Andy	G	6-4	310	11/20/1983	4	Akron
76 Cadogan, Gerald	T	6-5	314	01/16/1986	1	Penn State
66 DeVan, Kyle	G	6-2	306	02/10/1985	2	Oregon State
71 Diem, Ryan	T	6-6	320	07/01/1979	10	Northern Illinois
74 Johnson, Charlie	T	6-4	305	05/02/1984	5	Oklahoma State
78 Pollak, Mike	G	6-3	301	02/16/1985	3	Arizona State
61 Richard, Jamey	G	6-5	295	10/09/1984	3	Buffalo
63 Saturday, Jeff	C	6-2	295	06/18/1975	12	North Carolina
79 Terry, Adam	T	6-8	330	09/01/1982	5	Syracuse
73 Thomas, Jaimie	T	6-4	330	08/22/1986	1	Maryland
67 Ugoh, Tony	T	6-5	301	11/17/1983	4	Arkansas

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
29 Addai, Joseph	RB	5-11	214	05/03/1983	5	LSU
31 Brown, Donald	RB	5-10	210	04/11/1987	2	Connecticut
32 Hart, Mike	RB	5-9	206	04/09/1986	3	Michigan
30 Moore, Devin	RB	5-10	191	11/06/1985	1	Wyoming

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Clark, Dallas	TE	6-3	252	06/12/1979	8	Iowa
46 Cloherty, Colin	TE	6-2	245	09/16/1987	1	Brown
17 Collie, Austin	WR	6-0	200	11/11/1985	2	Brigham Young
85 Garcon, Pierre	WR	6-0	210	08/08/1986	3	Mount Union
14 Giguere, Sam	WR	5-11	215	07/11/1985	2	Sherbrooke
11 Gonzalez, Anthony	WR	6-0	193	09/18/1984	4	Ohio State
13 Guice, Dudley	WR	6-3	209	05/28/1986	1	Northwestern State
12 Hall, Roy	WR	6-3	240	12/08/1983	3	Ohio State
83 Matthews, John	WR	6-0	197	07/19/1986	1	San Diego
80 Petrowski, Jamie	TE	6-4	262	07/12/1982	1	Indiana State
47 Robinson, Gijon	TE	6-1	255	10/12/1984	3	Missouri Western State
86 Santi, Tom	TE	6-3	250	11/22/1985	3	Virginia
10 Smith, Taj	WR	6-0	192	09/30/1983	1	Syracuse
48 Snow, Justin	TE	6-3	240	12/21/1976	11	Baylor
84 Tamme, Jacob	TE	6-3	236	03/15/1985	3	Kentucky
87 Wayne, Reggie	WR	6-0	198	11/17/1978	10	Miami (FL)

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
94 Baldwin, Ervin	DE	6-2	260	08/25/1986	3	Michigan State
97 Chick, John	DE	6-4	248	11/20/1982	0	Utah State
96 Dawson, Keyunta	DE	6-3	254	09/13/1985	4	Texas Tech
68 Foster, Eric	DT	6-2	265	04/05/1985	3	Rutgers
93 Freeney, Dwight	DE	6-1	268	02/19/1980	9	Syracuse
69 Gill, John	DT	6-3	302	10/28/1986	1	Northwestern
60 Hardie, Rudolph	DE	6-2	269	10/08/1985	1	Howard
99 Johnson, Antonio	DT	6-3	310	12/08/1984	4	Mississippi State
62 King, Mitch	DT	6-2	280	05/05/1986	1	Iowa
98 Mathis, Robert	DE	6-2	245	02/26/1981	8	Alabama A&M
95 Moala, Fili	DT	6-4	303	06/23/1985	2	USC
90 Muir, Daniel	DT	6-2	312	09/12/1983	4	Kent State
72 Skolnitsky, J.D.	DE	6-5	255	11/06/1986	1	James Madison

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
41 Bethea, Antoine	S	5-11	203	07/27/1984	5	Howard
33 Bullitt, Melvin	S	6-1	201	11/13/1984	4	Texas A&M
26 Hayden, Kelvin	CB	6-0	195	07/23/1983	6	Illinois
27 Lacey, Jacob	CB	5-10	177	05/28/1987	2	Oklahoma State
34 Lambert, Terrail	CB	5-11	195	12/01/1985	1	Notre Dame
25 Powers, Jerraud	CB	5-10	192	07/19/1987	2	Auburn
21 Sanders, Bob	S	5-8	206	02/24/1981	7	Iowa
40 Silva, Jamie	S	5-11	204	12/14/1984	3	Boston College

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
58 Brackett, Gary	LB	5-11	235	05/23/1980	8	Rutgers
52 Glenn, Cody	LB	6-0	240	10/06/1986	2	Nebraska
59 Humber, Ramon	LB	5-11	232	08/10/1987	2	North Dakota State
57 Renkart, Brandon	LB	6-2	245	12/29/1984	1	Rutgers
55 Session, Clint	LB	6-0	235	09/22/1984	4	Pittsburgh
50 Wheeler, Philip	LB	6-2	240	12/12/1984	3	Georgia Tech

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
1 McAfee, Pat	P	6-1	220	05/02/1987	2	West Virginia
4 Vinatieri, Adam	K	6-0	202	12/28/1972	15	South Dakota State

JIM CALDWELL, *Head coach*
Clyde Christensen, offensive coordinator; **Larry Coyer**, defensive coordinator; **Ray Rychleski**, special teams coordinator; **Pete Metzelaars**, offensive line; **Ron Prince**, offensive line assistant; **Gene Huey**, running backs; **Ricky Thomas**, tight ends; **Ron Turner**, wide receivers; **Frank Reich**, quarterbacks; **Alan Williams**, secondary; **Mike Murphy**, linebackers; **John Teerlinck**, defensive line

with two-time Pro Bowl safety Antoine Bethea.

At corner, Kelvin Hayden and Jerraud Powers return as starters—they're physical in coverage and run support—and Jacob Lacey will resume his nickel back role. An undrafted rookie, Lacey stepped up last year when injuries depleted the position and produced three interceptions and a team-high 13 passes defended. It's imperative for a fourth and fifth corner to emerge for nickel and dime situations. The Colts selected USC's Kevin Thomas in the third round, but he sustained a knee injury during rookie minicamp that required surgery and will likely force him to miss the season.

The team opted to not re-sign veterans Marlin Jackson and Tim Jennings, and their departures coupled with Thomas' injury leave the position thin. **GRADE: B**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JIM CALDWELL

Caldwell is more low-key on game day than his predecessor, Tony Dungy. He's not a huge risk-taker, but won't hesitate to go against the odds when the situation warrants it. Much of that has to do with the presence of Peyton Manning and a veteran offense that has been exposed to virtually every situation imaginable.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Upgrades were made in coverage last season, and now it's time to address the return game.

There likely will be new faces in each area, as kick return man Chad Simpson was released and punt return specialist T.J. Rushing wasn't offered a new contract. Either Ray Fisher, a 2010 seventh-round draft pick out of Indiana, or Florida rookie free agent Brandon James will see time. If they falter, the return chores might fall to receiver Sam Giguere and Powers.

The kicking game should be solid, provided veteran Adam Vinatieri makes a full recovery from hip and knee issues that limited him to six games last season. Pat McAfee, a seventh-round pick, proved to be one of the best of the team's 2009 draft class. He was not only outstanding as a punter—a 44.3-yard average with 21 downed inside the 20 and just six touchbacks—but also showed a strong leg on kickoffs.

Justin Snow returns for an 11th season as the long snapper. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

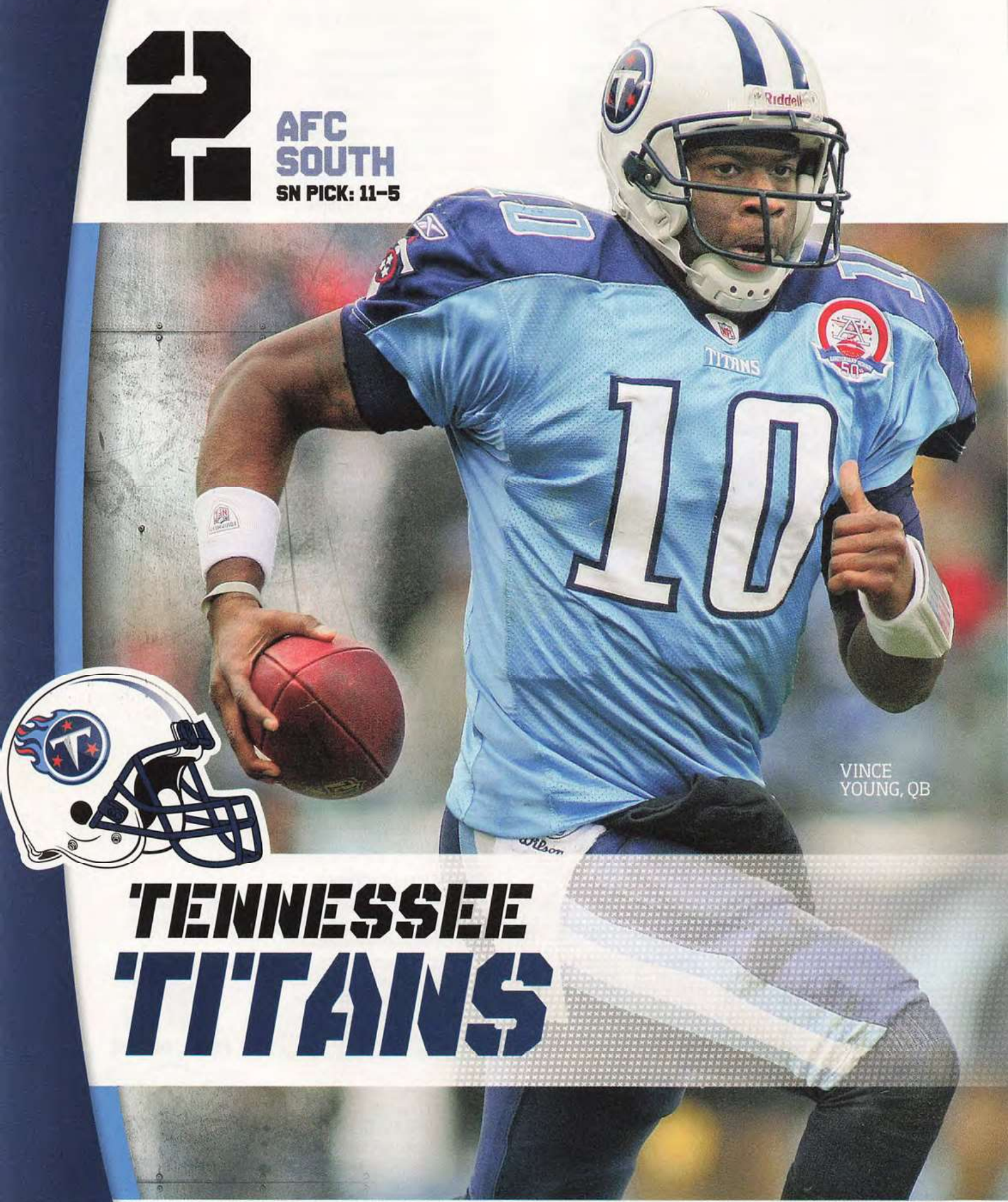
Despite the uncharacteristic changes, Indianapolis should remain a serious contender for a ninth straight playoff berth and another possible deep postseason run. Look no further than the presence of Manning, who remains one of the league's most influential players. And the supporting cast on each side of the ball is a nice mix of high-profile veterans and promising youngsters. The schedule is tough and includes another tilt with the Patriots and the NFC East. But Manning has proven time and again to be the great equalizer.

91
FINAL GRADE

2

AFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 11–5



VINCE YOUNG, QB

TENNESSEE TITANS

Titans look to turn late success into a yearlong romp

By Jim Wyatt, *The (Nashville) Tennessean*

The Titans had the NFL's most electrifying running back in 2009 and also found out they'd written off their quarterback a little too soon.

As a team, however, they had nothing to show for it. Tennessee was one of the league's biggest underachievers last season—an 8-8 team that got started way too late, perhaps missing out on a golden opportunity.

As the Titans prepare for the 2010 season, they do so knowing they need to be fast out of the starting gate, after failing to recover from a 0-6 start last season despite the improved play of quarterback Vince Young down the stretch.

This fall, Young will lead the way from the beginning. The former University of Texas star hopes the season will end in his home state with a huge payoff—the Super Bowl.

"If we can kick ass all year, take it a game at a time and get to Dallas, in that stadium," says Young says with a smile, "that's what is motivating me. ... Hell, yeah, we can do it."

The Titans have some unstoppable pieces on offense, including the NFL's Offensive Player of the Year in running back Chris Johnson. But the defense will have plenty of new faces, making a playoff run more challenging.

OFFENSE

The Titans leaned on Johnson tremendously in 2009 and will do so again this year. With 2,509 combined yards (an NFL record), Johnson was the workhorse in Tennessee's offense. His presence took the pressure off Young, who settled down and looked more comfortable in his fourth NFL season. Young will continue to benefit from working with offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger, who has a group of receivers capable of stretching the field and opening things up for Johnson.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ Young still has his share of critics despite a strong finish to the '09 season. But it's hard to argue with his success.

After starting 0-6 with veteran Kerry Collins leading the way, the Titans turned the offense over to Young, and he responded by guiding the team to wins in eight of the final 10 games.

Young improved in a lot of areas last fall. He cut down on his mistakes by making better decisions, delivered the ball more accurately and picked his spots when running the football. He still battles inconsistencies but is on the right track to becoming a true franchise QB.

Collins heads into his 16th NFL season. He's still capable of stepping in and guiding the offense in stretches, but the Titans signed Chris Simms to give the team some additional depth at the position. While it's Young's team, Tennessee does have some options if he's injured or takes a step back, something the organization hopes doesn't happen. **GRADE: B-**

Running backs ▸▸ No back in the NFL was better—or busier—than Johnson last fall.

In his second season, Johnson ran for 2,006 yards and had 503 receiving yards. He finished the '09 campaign with 11 consecutive 100-yard rushing games, and in one season became the first player in league history to record three rushing touchdowns of 85-plus yards in a career.

But did the Titans ask too much of Johnson? And are they jeopardizing his longevity by wearing him down with too many carries? Johnson ran the ball an NFL-high 358 times last fall.

The Titans want to make Johnson the focal point of their offense again this year, but they need to find him some help in

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

JARED COOK — **TE**

Cook was hyped as an immediate-impact player as a rookie. But an ankle injury slowed him in the preseason, and he struggled all year. He has all the tools to produce and is expected to play a key role in 2010.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Vince Young Kerry Collins
FB	Ahmard Hall
RB	Chris Johnson Javon Ringer
LT	Michael Roos Mike Otto
LG	Leroy Harris Troy Kropog
C	Eugene Amano Fernando Velasco
RG	Jake Scott Troy Kropog
RT	David Stewart Mike Otto
TE	Bo Scaife Jared Cook
WR	Nate Washington Lavelle Hawkins
WR	Kenny Britt Justin Gage
	DEFENSE
DE	William Hayes Jason Babin
DT	Jason Jones Jovan Haye
DT	Tony Brown Sen'Derrick Marks
DE	Derrick Morgan Jacob Ford
OLB	Will Witherspoon Gerald McRath
MLB	Stephen Tulloch Colin Allred
OLB	David Thornton Rennie Curran
LCB	Ryan Mouton Tye Hill
SS	Chris Hope Donnie Nickey
FS	Michael Griffin Vincent Fuller
RCB	Cortland Finnegan Rod Hood
	SPECIALISTS
K	Rob Bironas
P	Brett Kern
KR	Damian Williams
PR	Damian Williams
LS	Ken Amato

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 8-8 HOME: 5-3

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/titans
www.titansonline.com

STADIUM
LP Field
Capacity: 68,798 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 615-565-4200
Training Camp: Baptist Sports Park, Nashville, Tenn.; 615-565-4190

OPPOSITE: ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

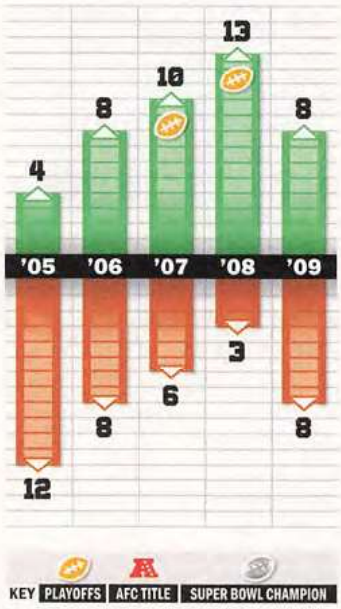
(an opponent breaks down the Titans)

"When the Titans have the football, it's running back Chris Johnson who you worry about, not necessarily quarterback Vince Young. So the plan is to stack the line of scrimmage and try and contain the lightning-quick back and make Young beat you. That can be a dangerous plan, however. ...

"While Young has improved as a passer, he's still inconsistent and especially has trouble throwing to his left. The Titans have one of the best offensive lines in the game that protect him, however, and give him time to throw the ball downfield. ...

"When you look at the Titans on defense, the biggest mystery last season was the play of safety Michael Griffin. The guy is a great athlete, and after a Pro Bowl season (in 2008) he looked to be coming into his own. But he never looked very confident in 2009. Griffin takes way too many chances, and he takes bad angles, whether he's defending a play downfield or closing in on a tackle. He's going to have to settle down if they are going to improve."

5-YEAR RECORD: 43-37



the backfield. It won't be LenDale White, who was traded to Seattle during the NFL draft after rushing for just 222 yards on 64 carries in 2009.

That means second-year running back Javon Ringer will have to step up. He showed some burst when he saw the field last year and should get more chances in 2010. Pro Bowl-caliber fullback Ahmard Hall will lead the way at his position. **GRADE: A**

Receivers ▸▸ The Titans' receiving corps has been maligned over the years, but the pieces are in place to change some opinions.

The team's top three receivers have a chance to take the offense to the next level if they can put some inconsistencies behind them. That group includes veterans Justin Gage and Nate Washington and rising second-year player Kenny Britt.

Washington didn't make the impact the Titans hoped he would after signing a $26.8 million contract last offseason. He dropped too many footballs and didn't stretch the field like he did when he played in Pittsburgh. Washington should settle in more in Year 2.

Britt showed some big-play ability as a rookie and will be counted on more this season, while Gage has to be more consistent. The Titans added another potential playmaker to the mix in former USC receiver Damian Williams, a second-round draft pick. Younger players such as Lavelle Hawkins, Paul Williams and Dominique Edison will battle for reserve spots.

At tight end, the Titans will count on veteran Bo Scaife while expecting Jared Cook, a nonfactor as a rookie, to be a contributor. **GRADE: C+**

Offensive line ▸▸ The Titans have done some shuffling since last season, but the bulk of one of the NFL's best offensive lines returns for 2010.

Tackles Michael Roos and David Stewart are in their primes and will keep the edges protected. Inside, the Titans will add Leroy Harris to mix with right guard Jake Scott and Eugene Amano, who played left guard

DRAFT REPORT

UPI PHOTOS / NEWSCOM

B GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	16	Derrick Morgan	DE	6-3	266	Georgia Tech
3	13	Damian Williams	WR	6-1	197	USC
3	33	Rennie Curran	LB	5-11	235	Georgia
4	6	Alterraun Verner	CB	5-10	189	UCLA
5	17	Robert Johnson	S	6-2	203	Utah
6	7	Rusty Smith	QB	6-5	224	Florida Atlantic
6	38	Myron Rolle	S	6-2	215	Florida State
7	15	Marc Mariani	WR	6-1	190	Montana
7	34	David Howard	DT	6-3	293	Brown

The Titans got excellent value with their first-round pick when they grabbed defensive end **Derrick Morgan**. He is a well-built and athletic end who will make the defense better all around.

Damian Williams should get playing time early in his career at receiver, as he's fundamentally sound. Outside linebacker **Rennie Curran** slid to the third round due to his lack of height, but he's so explosive it won't matter. He'll be valuable in today's pass-crazy NFL. **Alterraun Verner** boasts the physicality the Titans love, so they'll make him a slot cornerback right away. However, he lacks the speed to stay with the league's best receivers. Safety **Robert Johnson** is a nice value pick with good character and even better athleticism. He will be productive in a year or two. Another bargain was safety **Myron Rolle**, who is intelligent and has the intangibles to impact the team.

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/10	L	10-13	at Pittsburgh Steelers
09/20	L	31-34	Houston Texans
09/27	L	17-24	at New York Jets
10/04	L	17-37	at Jacksonville Jaguars
10/11	L	9-31	Indianapolis Colts
10/18	L	0-59	at New England Patriots
11/01	W	30-13	Jacksonville Jaguars
11/08	W	34-27	at San Francisco 49ers
11/15	W	41-17	Buffalo Bills
11/23	W	20-17	at Houston Texans
11/29	W	20-17	Arizona Cardinals
12/06	L	17-27	at Indianapolis Colts
12/13	W	47-7	St. Louis Rams
12/20	W	27-24	Miami Dolphins
12/25	L	17-42	San Diego Chargers
01/03	W	17-13	at Seattle Seahawks

WON 8, LOST 8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	358	2006	5.6	91	14
Young	55	281	5.1	44	2
White	64	222	3.5	11	2
Ringer	8	48	6.0	32	0
Collins	11	15	1.4	10	1
Washington	2	15	7.5	14	0
Hall	1	5	5.0	5	0
TITANS	499	2592	5.2	91	19
OPPONENTS	402	1711	4.3	80	16

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	50	503	10.1	69	2
Washington	47	569	12.1	35	6
Scaife	45	440	9.8	27	1
Britt	42	701	16.7	57	3
Gage	28	383	13.7	49	3
Crumpler	27	222	8.2	27	1
Hall	12	79	6.6	15	0
Cook	9	74	8.2	17	0
Hawkins	7	110	15.7	32	0
White	3	14	4.7	7	0
Jones	1	9	9.0	9	0
TITANS	271	3031	11.2	69	16
OPPONENTS	404	4139	10.2	72	31

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Young	259	152	1879	10	7
Collins	216	119	1225	6	8
Johnson	1	0	0	0	0
TITANS	476	271	3031	16	15
OPPONENTS	604	404	4139	31	20

SACKS TITANS 31, OPPONENTS 15

Ford 5.5, Brown 5, Hayes 4, Jones 4, Vanden Bosch 3, Hope 2, Tulloch 2, Fuller 1, Griffin 1, Kearse 1, Marks 1, Thornton 1, Haye 0.5

last season but is expected to switch to center.

Such a move would pave the way for the athletic Harris to take over at left guard, a position the Titans think he'll master after spending his first three NFL seasons as a spectator. Tennessee has some quality depth in tackle Mike Otto, and 2009 draft picks Troy Kropog and Ryan Durand will battle in training camp for the right to provide depth. **GRADE: A**

DEFENSE

The Titans took a step back in their first season under defensive coordinator Chuck Cecil, although things improved in the second part of the campaign after a horrendous start. The Titans and their fans hope the learning process is behind them. Cecil was conservative in Year 1 and probably leaned too much on previous tactics implemented by former coordinator Jim Schwartz. Cecil will look to add more of his own wrinkles this fall.

Defensive line ▸▸ The Titans said goodbye to one of the team's leaders in defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch, who joined the Lions.

His energy—and mindset at practice—will be hard to duplicate, but the Titans have to find a way to get to the quarterback, after failing to do so consistently last season.

Tennessee is excited about the progress of third-year defensive end William Hayes, a fourth-round pick from the 2008 draft. But Hayes produced just four sacks last year, and much more will be expected of him this fall. The team can also count on rising fourth-year player Jacob Ford for production off the bench.

But the big newcomer is the team's first-round pick, defensive end Derrick Morgan, who was drafted 16th overall out of Georgia Tech. Morgan is considered by many to be close to NFL-ready, which means he could be a starter early in the season. The team also added former Eagle Jason Babin to the mix and sixth-year pro David Ball returns as well.

The strength of the defensive line will come from tackle Tony Brown, the team's best lineman in 2009. But the Titans are also high on Jason Jones, a former second-round pick who has battled injuries in his first two seasons. Sen'Derrick Marks closed his rookie campaign strong and will be even more of an impact player in 2010, while Jovan Haye, a free-agent acquisition last fall, needs to step up his play and production. **GRADE: B-**

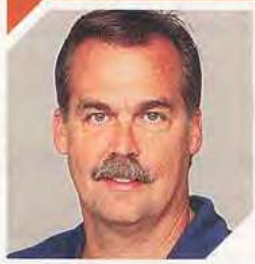
Linebackers ▸▸ This could be the most unsettled position on the team, although the Titans do have numbers.

Veteran David Thornton is scheduled to return for his ninth NFL season, but injuries have taken a toll on his body over the years. Thornton had shoulder/pectoral surgery this past offseason, leaving his availability for the start of the season uncertain.

In the middle, Stephen Tulloch is coming off a season in which he led the

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JEFF FISHER



The conservative Fisher will occasionally take some chances on offense, but it's rare. Chris Johnson's game-changing speed gives him more options, however, making his risks more calculated. On defense, Fisher has scaled back on blitzing in previous seasons and relied more on a four-man rush to get to the quarterback. The vanilla approach hasn't worked so far, and that needs to change.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	351.4	12
RUSHING	162.0	2
PASSING	189.4	23
SCORING	354	16
PUNT RETURNS	6.7	25
KICK RETURNS	20.5	29
RED ZONE TD %	56.4	8
TOTAL DEFENSE	365.6	28
AGAINST RUSH	106.9	10t
AGAINST PASS	258.7	31
POINTS ALLOWED	402	28
INTERCEPTIONS	20	8
SACKS	32	18t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-4	21

TITANS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Ray Childress** *(1985-95)* — 75.5
2. **William Fuller** *(1986-93)* — 59.0
3. **Sean Jones** *(1988-93)* — 57.5

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Oakland — SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 2 Pittsburgh — SEPT. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 3 @ N.Y. Giants — SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 4 Denver — OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 5 @ Dallas — OCT. 10 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 6 @ Jacksonville — OCT. 18 | 8:30 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 7 Philadelphia — OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 8 @ San Diego — OCT. 31 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 9 OPEN DATE
WEEK 10 @ Miami — NOV. 14 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 11 Washington — NOV. 21 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 12 @ Houston — NOV. 28 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 13 Jacksonville — DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 14 Indianapolis — DEC. 9 | 8:20 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 15 Houston — DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 16 @ Kansas City — DEC. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L
WEEK 17 @ Indianapolis — JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Titans with 121 tackles. He's set to anchor the group, but needs help.

Former Eagle Will Witherspoon was signed by the Titans in the offseason and will fill one of the starting spots. Witherspoon has great sideline-to-sideline abilities, which reminds the front office of longtime Titan Keith Bulluck. The team also has a rising star in Gerald McRath, who will be tough to keep off the field after playing so well as a fill-in at the end of 2009.

The Titans selected Rennie Curran out of Georgia in the third round of the draft, and he'll be thrown in the mix as well. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ▸▸ It seemed like it was just yesterday when cornerback Cortland Finnegan was being introduced to the secondary. Now he is setting the tone.

Finnegan will continue to lead with his feisty style of play, though who plays opposite him remains a question. Veteran Rod Hood was re-signed, and the team also picked up Tye Hill, formerly with the Falcons. Those players will join Ryan

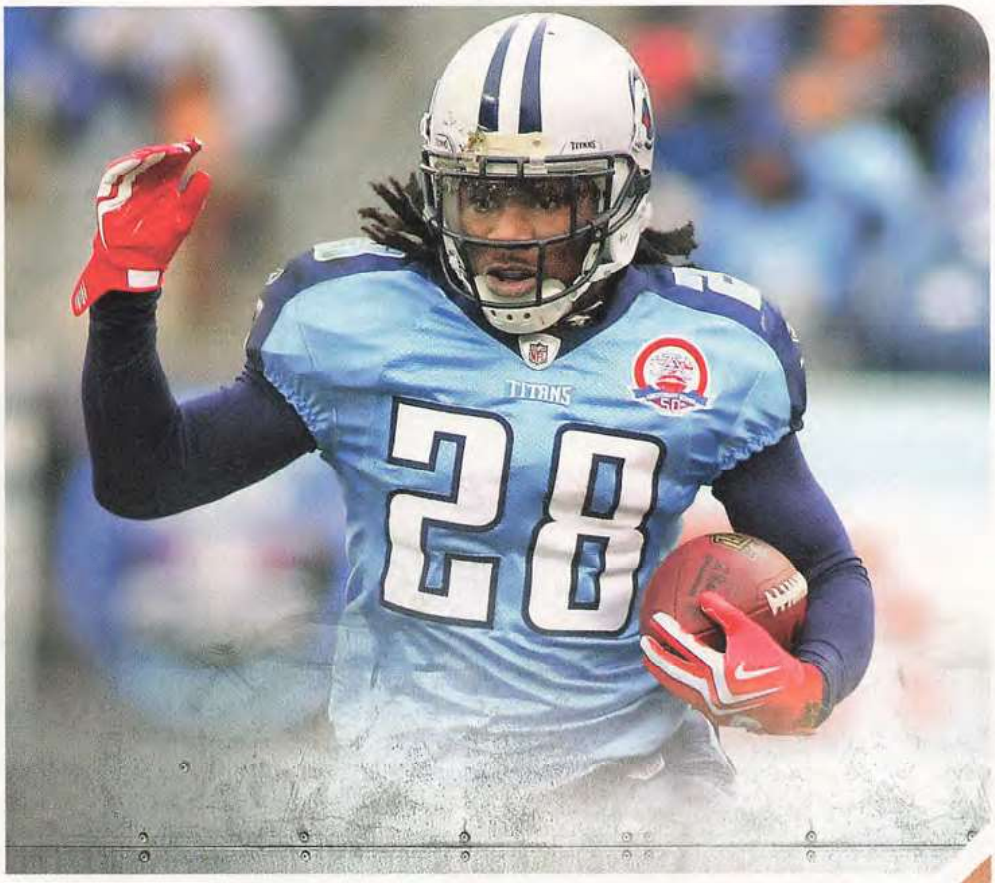
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

CB Tye Hill *(FA/Falcons)*, **QB Chris Simms** *(FA/Broncos)*, **DE Jason Babin** *(FA/Eagles)*, **LB Will Witherspoon** *(FA/Eagles)*

SUBTRACTIONS

DE Kyle Vanden Bosch *(FA/Lions)*, **LB Keith Bulluck** *(FA)*, **RB LenDale White** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **DT Kevin Vickerson** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **TE Alge Crumpler** *(FA/Patriots)*, **C Kevin Mawae** *(FA)*, **P Craig Hentrich** *(retired)*, **CB Nick Harper** *(FA)*, **DE Jevon Kearse** *(FA)*



ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... CHRIS JOHNSON

(how a rival sizes him up)

"With the Titans, it all starts with running back Chris Johnson. And the problem begins from the time he first gets his hands on the football and defenses realize he's a lot faster than he looks on film. ...

"As a result, players regularly take bad angles to get to him, and make the mistake of misjudging where to cut him off down the field. The best way to slow him down is to get a hand on him early, but that's easier said than done. If Johnson gets through the hole untouched, he's a threat to go the distance. And the guy is surprisingly durable. While he doesn't get hit cleanly much because of his elusiveness, he has taken some clean shots, however. But he's gotten up and returned for the next play."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Collins, Kerry	QB	6-5	245	12/30/1972	16	Penn State
11 Simms, Chris	QB	6-4	220	08/29/1980	8	Texas
10 Young, Vince	QB	6-5	233	05/18/1983	5	Texas

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
54 Amano, Eugene	G	6-3	310	03/01/1982	7	Southeast Missouri State
77 Durand, Ryan	G	6-5	305	11/17/1985	1	Syracuse
64 Harris, Leroy	G	6-3	302	06/06/1984	4	N.C. State
70 Kropog, Troy	T	6-6	309	07/31/1986	2	Tulane
72 McCaskill, Nevin	T	6-4	300	12/29/1983	2	Hampton
66 Otto, Mike	T	6-5	308	07/24/1983	3	Purdue
71 Roos, Michael	T	6-7	315	10/05/1982	6	Eastern Washington
73 Scott, Jake	G	6-5	295	04/16/1981	7	Idaho
76 Stewart, David	T	6-7	318	08/28/1982	6	Mississippi State
61 Velasco, Fernando	C	6-4	304	02/22/1985	2	Georgia

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
45 Hall, Ahmard	RB	5-11	242	11/13/1979	5	Texas
28 Johnson, Chris	RB	5-11	200	09/23/1985	3	East Carolina
35 Pearman, Alvin	RB	5-10	208	08/10/1982	6	Virginia
21 Ringer, Javon	RB	5-9	205	02/02/1987	2	Michigan State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
18 Britt, Kenny	WR	6-3	218	09/19/1988	2	Rutgers
89 Cook, Jared	TE	6-5	246	04/07/1987	2	South Carolina
19 Edison, Dominique	WR	6-2	204	07/16/1986	2	Stephen F. Austin
12 Gage, Justin	WR	6-4	212	01/24/1981	8	Missouri
87 Hawkins, Lavelle	WR	5-11	190	07/12/1986	3	California
84 Jones, Mark	WR	5-9	185	11/03/1980	7	Tennessee
16 Morris, Phillip	WR	6-3	175	07/02/1986	1	South Carolina State
80 Scaife, Bo	TE	6-3	249	01/06/1981	6	Texas
88 Stevens, Craig	TE	6-3	255	09/01/1984	3	California
85 Washington, Nate	WR	6-1	185	08/28/1983	6	Tiffin
81 Williams, Paul	WR	6-1	205	12/02/1983	3	Fresno State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
93 Babin, Jason	DE	6-3	267	05/24/1980	6	Western Michigan
99 Bakhtiari, Eric	DE	6-3	285	12/02/1984	2	San Diego
98 Ball, Dave	DE	6-5	277	01/04/1981	6	UCLA
49 Brown, Kareem	DE	6-4	260	01/30/1984	3	Miami (FL)
97 Brown, Tony	DT	6-3	290	09/29/1980	6	Memphis
78 Ford, Jacob	DE	6-4	256	07/20/1983	4	Central Arkansas
75 Haye, Jovan	DT	6-2	285	06/21/1982	6	Vanderbilt
95 Hayes, William	DE	6-3	272	05/02/1985	3	Winston-Salem
92 Howard, Marcus	DE	6-0	237	10/12/1985	2	Georgia
91 Jones, Jason	DT	6-5	280	05/23/1986	3	Eastern Michigan
94 Marks, Sen'Derrick	DT	6-0	306	02/23/1987	2	Auburn

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
31 Finnegan, Cortland	CB	5-10	188	02/02/1984	5	Samford
22 Fuller, Vincent	S	6-1	190	08/03/1982	6	Virginia Tech
33 Griffin, Michael	S	6-0	202	01/04/1985	4	Texas
24 Hill, Tye	CB	5-10	185	06/03/1982	5	Clemson
37 Hood, Rod	CB	5-11	198	10/03/1981	8	Auburn
24 Hope, Chris	S	6-0	208	09/29/1980	9	Florida State
36 Love, Jamar	CB	6-0	190	11/08/1986	1	Arkansas
30 McCourty, Jason	CB	6-0	193	08/13/1987	2	Rutgers
29 Mouton, Ryan	CB	5-9	187	09/23/1986	2	Hawaii
23 Nickey, Donnie	S	6-3	210	04/25/1980	8	Ohio State
39 Schommer, Nick	S	6-0	201	01/03/1986	1	North Dakota State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
56 Allred, Colin	LB	6-1	238	04/15/1983	3	Baylor
59 Keglar, Stanford	LB	6-2	240	07/04/1985	3	Purdue
51 McRath, Gerald	LB	6-3	231	06/16/1986	2	Southern Miss
92 Moore, Jay	LB	6-4	280	08/16/1983	2	Nebraska
57 Rivera, Mike	LB	6-3	255	01/10/1986	1	Kansas
50 Thornton, David	LB	6-2	225	11/01/1978	9	North Carolina
44 Togafau, Pago	LB	5-11	240	01/10/1984	4	Idaho State
55 Tulloch, Stephen	LB	5-11	235	01/01/1985	5	N.C. State
52 Winborn, Jamie	LB	5-11	230	05/14/1979	10	Vanderbilt
50 Witherspoon, Will	LB	6-1	240	08/19/1980	9	Georgia

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Bironas, Rob	K	6-0	215	01/29/1978	6	Georgia Southern
6 Kern, Brett	P	6-3	205	02/17/1986	3	Toledo
Schmitt, Ricky	K	6-3	210	08/17/1985	2	Shepherd

» JEFF FISHER, *Head coach*

Mike Heimerdinger, offensive coordinator; **Chuck Cecil,** defensive coordinator; **Alan Lowry,** special teams coordinator; **Mike Munchak,** offensive line; **Marty Galbraith,** special teams assistant; **Kennedy Pola,** running backs; **John Zernhelt,** tight ends; **Fred Graves,** wide receivers; **Craig Johnson,** quarterbacks; **Marcus Robertson,** secondary; **Tim Hauck,** secondary assistant; **Dave McGinnis,** assistant head coach/linebackers; **Jim Washburn,** defensive line

Mouton, Jason McCourty and fourth-round draft pick Alterraun Verner in a battle that will play out in training camp.

Free safety Michael Griffin took a step back after a Pro Bowl season in 2008. He took too many chances and was burned because of it. Veteran Chris Hope also struggled at times last year but settled down and was more consistent near the season's end. With more experience around them, they should settle back in.

Nickel back Vincent Fuller remains one of the most consistent defenders on the team and will hold down the slot again this fall. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Rob Bironas was effective again in 2009. He was 27 of 32 for the season with a team-high 118 points.

The Titans will have a new punter this fall, as Craig Hentrich retired during the offseason. The team thinks he left the job in good hands with Brett Kern, who averaged 45 yards a game after taking over for an injured Hentrich last season.

Several players tried and failed miserably in Tennessee's return game last year, but in Williams, the team believes it has an immediate playmaker. He averaged 14.2 yards per punt return at USC, returning two for touchdowns. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

Offensively, things look to be on the right track, as the Titans have an explosive player in Johnson, and Young has made an improvement over the years. However, they must overcome questions on defense and the loss of some key leaders. If the squad can get off to a good start and build confidence early, it will have a chance to contend. But if Tennessee struggles to find an identity on defense, which will make getting over the hump tougher.

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Chris Johnson became the sixth running back in NFL history to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a single season and eclipsed Marshall Faulk's all-time record with 2,509 all-purpose yards. He's the new No. 1 overall pick.

BUY
Rob Bironas
K

SELL
Kenny Britt
WR

SLEEPER
Vince Young
QB

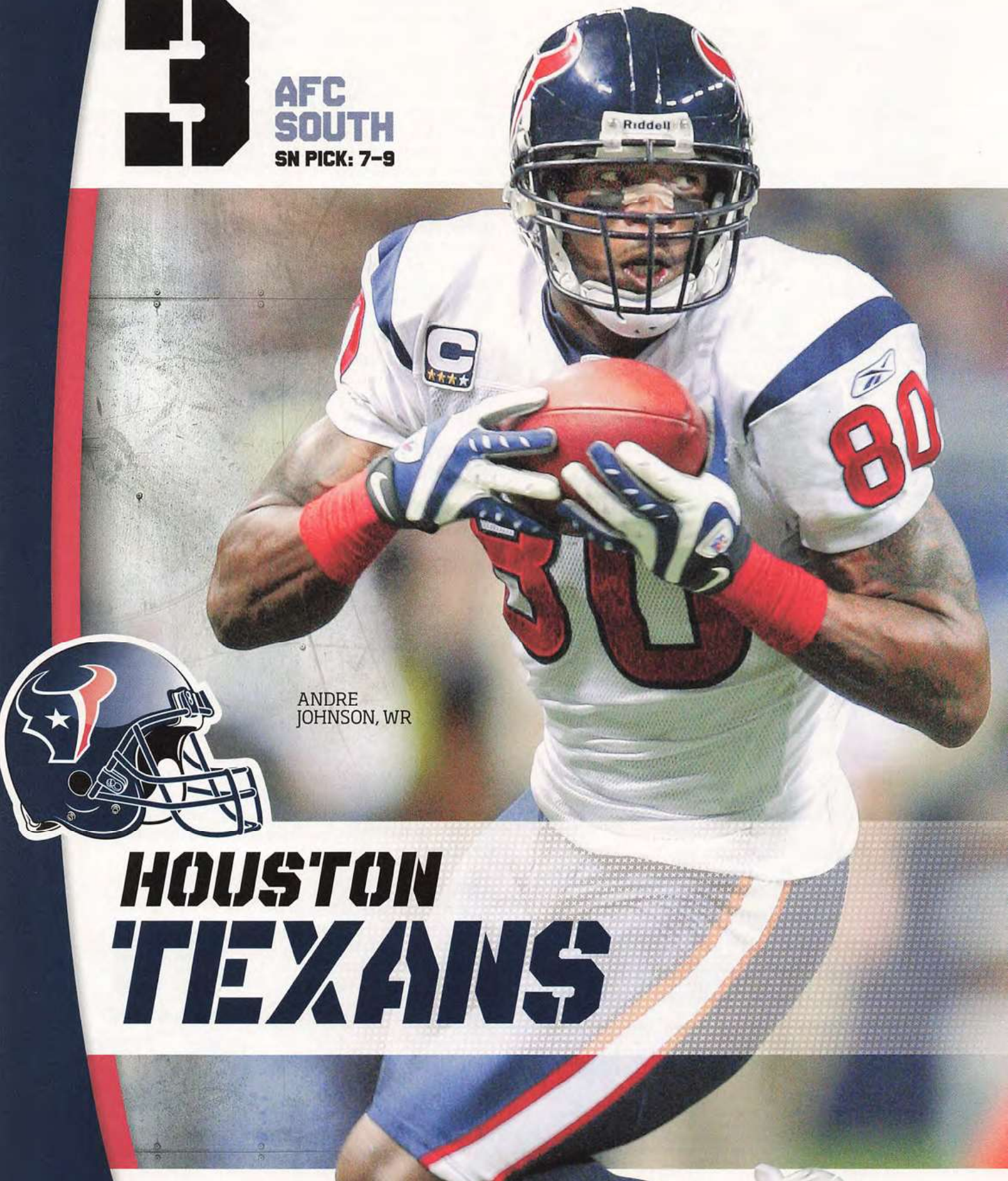
89
FINAL GRADE

STEADY
STOCK REPORT

3

AFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 7-9



ANDRE JOHNSON, WR

HOUSTON TEXANS

Texans must overcome division foes to earn first playoff berth

By John McClain, *Houston Chronicle*

After finishing with a franchise-best 9-7 record and missing the playoffs on the last Sunday of the season, the Houston Texans believe they are destined for their first playoff appearance.

Armed with a new three-year contract that runs through 2012, coach Gary Kubiak enters his fifth season on a mission to do something for the first time in franchise history: compile a winning record in the AFC South.

Last year, the Texans finished with a 5-3 record on the road and went 3-1 against the NFC for a third consecutive season. But they once again struggled in their division, finishing 1-5.

"We've got to find a way to be better in our division," Kubiak says. "I don't have any excuses. That'll be a big focus for us."

OFFENSE

New offensive coordinator Rick Dennison inherits a unit that ranked fourth in total offense last year, including first in passing and 30th in rushing. Dennison, a longtime offensive line coach at Denver, employs the same scheme the Texans used under former coordinator Kyle Shanahan, who will join his dad, Mike, in Washington. The running game relies on backs who can excel in a one-cut zone scheme that demands getting downhill fast, while Houston's play-action passing game emphasizes the bootleg, short drops and a quick release.

Quarterbacks Matt Schaub stayed healthy for the first time since he became the starter, played exceptionally well and was named Pro Bowl MVP. During the offseason, the team picked up his $10 million option bonus, securing him for the next three years.

With Dennison and new quarterbacks coach Greg Knapp, the Texans expect Schaub to be even better this season. Last year, he completed 67.9 percent of his passes and threw for 4,770 yards and 29 touchdowns, but had 15 interceptions and was sacked 25 times. To reduce his interceptions and sacks, he became more careful with the ball and developed better pocket presence later in the season.

As he went through his reads, Schaub learned to throw the ball away rather than force it into coverage or take a sack. As long as Schaub stays healthy, the offense is in good hands. If he gets hurt, it could be trouble. Last year's backup, Rex Grossman, left as a free agent, elevating Dan Orlovsky, who didn't see any time in 2009. **GRADE: A-**

Running backs The running game was the biggest disappointment last season, ranking 30th with 92.2 yards a game and 3.5 yards a carry. After Steve Slaton's tremendous rookie year in which he totaled almost 1,700 yards from scrimmage, the rushing attack seemed to be the least of the coaches' worries in 2009.

But Houston lost starting guards Chester Pitts and Mike Brisiel early, and Slaton's play declined. He also developed a fumbling problem before suffering a neck injury that required surgery, and finished with only 437 yards.

The only bright spot was the performance of Arian Foster in the team's final two games. The undrafted rookie rushed for 216 yards and three touchdowns in victories over Miami and New England. Slaton is supposed to be healthy during training camp, but nobody knows if the surgery will help him hang on to the ball better.

Second-round pick Ben Tate out of Auburn will challenge for a starting role, while Foster is hoping he picks up where he left off. Ryan Moats is a journeyman, and second-year running back Jeremiah Johnson

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

CONNOR BARWIN — **DE**

Barwin has the athleticism and nonstop motor that could catapult him to the 10-sack range after he registered four as a rookie behind Mario Williams. Last season was his second year on defense after making the transition from tight end in college.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Matt Schaub Dan Orlovsky
FB	Vonta Leach James Casey
RB	Steve Slaton Ben Tate
LT	Duane Brown Rashad Butler
LG	Kasey Studdard Chris White
C	Chris Myers Wade Smith
RG	Antoine Caldwell Mike Brisiel
RT	Eric Winston Rashad Butler
TE	Owen Daniels Joel Dreessen
WR	Andre Johnson Jacoby Jones
WR	Kevin Walter David Anderson
	DEFENSE
DE	Antonio Smith Tim Bulman
DT	Amobi Okoye Frank Okam
DT	Shaun Cody Earl Mitchell
DE	Mario Williams Connor Barwin
SLB	Brian Cushing Kevin Bentley
MLB	DeMeco Ryans Zac Diles
WLB	Zac Diles Xavier Adibi
LCB	Glover Quin Brice McCain
SS	Bernard Pollard Dominique Barber
FS	Eugene Wilson Dominique Barber
RCB	Kareem Jackson Jacques Reeves
	SPECIALISTS
K	Kris Brown
P	Matt Turk
KR	Jacoby Jones
PR	Jacoby Jones
LS	Joel Dreessen

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 9-7 HOME: 4-4

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/texans
www.houstontexans.com

STADIUM
Reliant Stadium
Capacity: 71,500 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 832-667-2002
Training Camp: Methodist Training Center, Houston; 832-667-2000

OPPOSITE: CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM; RIGHT: BEN LIEBENBERG / GETTY IMAGES

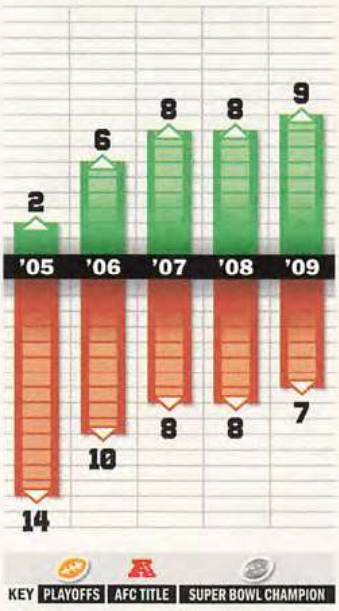
VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Texans)

"I thought they were right on the verge of becoming a 10- or 11-win team last year, and I'm almost sure of it this year. They were in every game except one (a 17-point loss to the Jets). They lost a lot of close ones (six defeats by eight or fewer points). And they did that with a lot of injuries (six starters on injured reserve). They did it without a running game. I'm certain (coach Gary) Kubiak will make the running game a whole lot better because he's always prided himself on running the ball—at least he did in Denver. ...

"The biggest improvement on offense was (Matt) Schaub. He threw for close to 5,000 yards (last year). (Linebacker) Brian Cushing was a huge addition to their defense. Not only was he a monster, but you could see the way (his play) rubs off on his teammates. If they ever get Mario (Williams) to play hard on every play, there's no telling how good he'll be and how much better he'll make their defense. It'll be interesting to see how they go about replacing (cornerback) Dunta (Robinson)."

5-YEAR RECORD: 33-47



spent his rookie year on injured reserve.

GRADE: C

Receivers ▸▸ This is the team's strongest position, with Andre Johnson leading the charge. He caught 101 passes, led the league with 1,569 receiving yards and scored nine touchdowns on his way to a Pro Bowl appearance. He's a team leader who works hard in practice and games.

Kevin Walter, who was re-signed, slumped to 53 catches after starting slow with a hamstring injury. He's a tireless worker who blocks well, runs every route and gets yards after the catch. Backups David Anderson and Jacoby Jones had their best seasons in 2009. Anderson caught a career-high 38 passes, while Jones had 27 receptions, a 16.2-yard average and six touchdowns. The coaches want to get him the ball more because he has big-play ability.

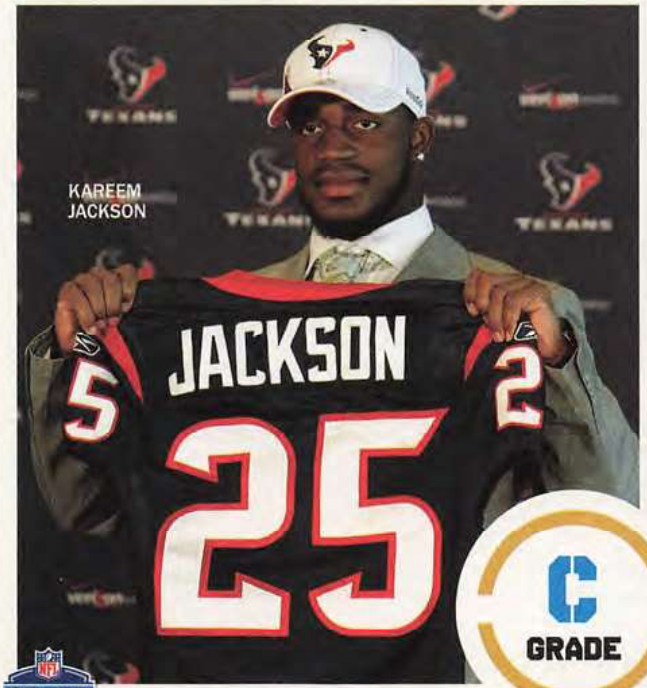
Tight end is another deep position, provided everyone comes back healthy. Owen Daniels had 40 catches and five touchdowns when he suffered a knee injury in the eighth game that put him out for the year. His replacement, Joel Dreessen (26 catches for 320 yards), underwent shoulder surgery after the season, while Anthony Hill had season-ending surgery on his knee. When camp begins, James Casey, who had six catches as a rookie, and 2010 fourth-round pick Garrett Graham might be the only tight ends at 100 percent.

GRADE: A

Offensive line ▸▸ When Pitts and Brisiel were lost with season-ending injuries, the running game became inconsistent and unproductive. The pass protection was good enough, though, so the Texans didn't make a lot of changes. Now, everybody's healthy.

Tackles Duane Brown and Eric Winston are sound and secure. Both have to do a better job of run blocking, though. Center

DRAFT REPORT



BRETT DAVIS / US PRESSWIRE

GRADE: C

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	20	Kareem Jackson	CB	5-11	196	Alabama
2	26	Ben Tate	RB	5-11	220	Auburn
3	17	Earl Mitchell	DT	6-2	296	Arizona
4	4	Darryl Sharpton	LB	6-0	236	Miami (Fla.)
4	20	Garrett Graham	TE	6-3	243	Wisconsin
5	13	Sherrick McManis	CB	5-11	195	Northwestern
6	18	Shelley Smith	G	6-3	300	Colorado State
6	28	Trindon Holliday	WR	5-5	166	LSU
7	20	Dorin Dickerson	TE	6-2	226	Pittsburgh

The Texans took a few risks this draft, opting for players with upside but also question marks. Cornerback **Kareem Jackson**, taken 20th overall, lacks top-end speed but can read the quarterback well. If he can keep up with defenders, he'll be a starter. **Ben Tate** was productive in college using his speed and strength, but he isn't elusive enough to fool defensive linemen and will need to learn some tricks to be successful in the NFL. **Earl Mitchell** is an undersized defensive tackle who needs to improve his technique.

Fourth-rounders **Darryl Sharpton**, a linebacker, and **Garrett Graham**, a tight end, slid down draft boards due to questions about their production value at the next level. **Sherrick McManis** has the ability to start if he can be more consistent.

In the sixth round, Houston grabbed the explosive and diminutive **Trindon Holliday**. He'll impact the team's return game immediately. The real gamble came in the seventh round with tight end **Dorin Dickerson**, a "tweener" who will be great if the Texans can find a place for him.

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	7-24	New York Jets
09/20	W	34-31	at Tennessee Titans
09/27	L	24-31	Jacksonville Jaguars
10/04	W	29-6	Oakland Raiders
10/11	L	21-28	at Arizona Cardinals
10/18	W	28-17	at Cincinnati Bengals
10/25	W	24-21	San Francisco 49ers
11/01	W	31-10	at Buffalo Bills
11/08	L	17-20	at Indianapolis Colts
11/23	L	17-20	Tennessee Titans
11/29	L	27-35	Indianapolis Colts
12/06	L	18-23	at Jacksonville Jaguars
12/13	W	34-7	Seattle Seahawks
12/20	W	16-13	at St. Louis Rams
12/27	W	27-20	at Miami Dolphins
01/03	W	34-27	New England Patriots

WON 9, LOST 7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Slaton	131	437	3.3	32	3
Moats	101	390	3.9	17	4
Brown	79	267	3.4	13	3
Foster	54	257	4.8	24	3
Schaub	48	57	1.2	19	0
Walter	4	26	6.5	13	0
Jones	3	22	7.3	17	0
Johnson	2	10	5.0	7	0
Grossman	3	9	3.0	8	0
TEXANS	425	1475	3.5	32	13
OPPONENTS	396	1711	4.3	91	17

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	101	1569	15.5	72	9
Walter	53	611	11.5	41	2
Slaton	44	417	9.5	38	4
Daniels	40	519	13.0	44	5
Anderson	38	370	9.7	27	0
Jones	27	437	16.2	45	6
Dreessen	26	320	12.3	25	1
Leach	20	155	7.8	26	1
Brown	16	74	4.6	12	0
Moats	13	106	8.2	20	1
Foster	8	93	11.6	20	0
Casey	6	64	10.7	32	0
Davis	6	59	9.8	21	0
Hill	1	9	9.0	9	0
TEXANS	399	4654	11.7	72	29
OPPONENTS	344	3487	10.1	69	19

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Schaub	583	396	4770	29	15
Grossman	9	3	33	0	1
Brown	1	0	0	0	1
TEXANS	593	399	4654	29	17
OPPONENTS	548	344	3487	19	14

SACKS TEXANS 30, OPPONENTS 25

Williams 9, Barwin 4.5, Smith 4.5, Cushing 4, Zgonina 2.5, Okoye 1.5, Pollard 1.5, Ryans 1, Cody 0.5

Chris Myers gets overpowered at times, but relies on quickness and finesse. He should be pushed by free-agent acquisition Wade Smith, who fits a zone scheme that depends on the linemen getting to the second level.

Kasey Studdard, who replaced Pitts at left guard, should be improved with 14 games of starting experience. Brisiel, who has recovered from foot surgery, is trying to get his job back at right guard and will battle Antoine Caldwell, a third-round pick last year. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

Under first-year defensive coordinator Frank Bush, the Texans tied for 13th in total defense, including a tie for 10th against the run and 18th against the pass. Bush employs a 4-3 system and is not afraid to bench players who don't perform. If the defense picks up where it left off last season, it could be one of the league's best, especially if the pass rush improves.

Defensive line ▸▸ The defense gets the bulk of its pass rushing from ends Mario Williams, Antonio Smith and Connor Barwin, who combined for 18 of the team's 30 sacks last season. Williams played hurt most of the season and was limited to nine sacks, the fewest since his rookie year.

Smith, who's a physical player with a mean streak, moves inside in passing situations. Williams often requires two blockers to control him, but needs to play hard on every down. Barwin, who's playing on defense for only the third year in his football career, should be the most improved player. If he wins a starting job, Smith could move to tackle full time.

Tackles Amobi Okoye and Shaun Cody play the run well. They know how to grab and hold to free up the linebackers to make tackles, but their pass rush is almost nonexistent, as they combined for just two sacks last season.

It would be a godsend for the defense if third-year tackle Frank Okam (6-5, 340 pounds) finally produced on a consistent basis, but that might be asking too much of a player who's been a disappointment so far. Earl Mitchell, a third-round pick out of Arizona, will also figure into the tackle rotation. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers ▸▸ Middle linebacker DeMeco Ryans and strongside 'backer Brian Cushing were voted to the Pro Bowl after outstanding seasons. Ryans, who signed a new contract in the offseason, is one of the best at his position. He's the defensive leader who never comes off the field. Ryans makes plays from sideline to sideline and can be disruptive in the backfield.

Cushing was voted NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2009, but will be sidelined for the first four games of the 2010 season after violating the league's performance-enhancing drug policy. When Cushing does return to play, expect him to be a beast against the run, as he likes to hit hard. He tied for the team lead with four interceptions

INSIDE THE HEADSET

GARY KUBIAK

Kubiak uses the same offense he developed at Denver under Mike Shanahan—zone blocking and West Coast passing. He's not a gambler by nature, but he isn't afraid to go for it on fourth down when he's close or across midfield. The Texans were eight-for-12 on fourth downs last season.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	383.1	4
RUSHING	92.2	30
PASSING	290.9	1
SCORING	388	10
PUNT RETURNS	10.0	10
KICK RETURNS	22.6	16
RED ZONE TD %	52.4	12
TOTAL DEFENSE	324.9	13t
AGAINST RUSH	106.9	10t
AGAINST PASS	217.9	18
POINTS ALLOWED	333	17
INTERCEPTIONS	14	20t
SACKS	30	25
TURNOVER DIFF.	-1	19

TEXANS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Mario Williams** *(2006-present)* — 39.5
2. **Kailee Wong** *(2002-06)* — 15.0
3. **Jason Babin** *(2004-06)* — 13.0

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Indianapolis
SEPT. 12 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 2 @ Washington
SEPT. 19 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 3 Dallas
SEPT. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 4 @ Oakland
OCT. 3 | 4:05
— SCORE

WEEK 5 N.Y. Giants
OCT. 10 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 6 Kansas City
OCT. 17 | 1:00
— SCORE

» WEEK 7 OPEN DATE

WEEK 8 @ Indianapolis
NOV. 1 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 9 San Diego
NOV. 7 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 10 @ Jacksonville
NOV. 14 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 11 @ N.Y. Jets
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 12 Tennessee
NOV. 28 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 13 @ Philadelphia
DEC. 2 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 14 Baltimore
DEC. 13 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 15 @ Tennessee
DEC. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 16 @ Denver
DEC. 26 | 4:05
— SCORE

WEEK 17 Jacksonville
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

and, although he doesn't rush much, Cushing still recorded four sacks as a rookie.

Zac Diles will line up on the weak side. He excels against the run but comes out in passing situations. The Texans have decent depth with Xavier Adibi and Kevin Bentley. Adibi is a finesse player known for his speed, while Bentley is a smart and strong veteran with starting experience. As a group, this is a strong unit because it does everything well. **GRADE: A-**

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

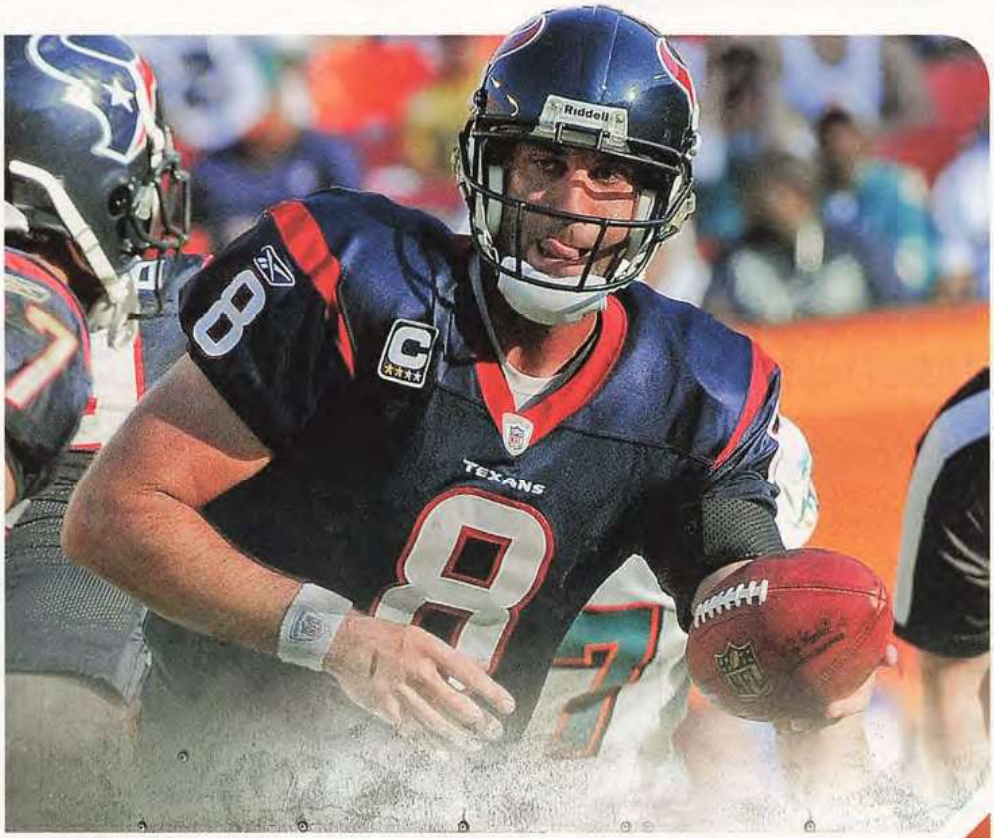
K Neil Rackers *(FA/Cardinals)*, **C Wade Smith** *(FA/Chiefs)*, **TE Michael Gaines** *(FA/Browns)*

SUBTRACTIONS

CB Dunta Robinson *(FA/Falcons)*, **RB Chris Brown** *(FA)*, **QB Rex Grossman** *(FA/Redskins)*, **LB Toddrick Verdell** *(FA)*

Secondary » The Texans let cornerback Dunta Robinson leave as a free agent, so 2010 first-round pick Kareem Jackson will battle veteran Jacques Reeves to replace him. Reeves, who suffered a broken leg in camp before the 2009 season, never returned to 100 percent, and it showed in his performance. Jackson was a shutdown corner for NCAA champion Alabama last season and looks to be NFL-ready.

Glover Quin, who started the last 14 games of his rookie season, did a terrific job in 2009. He's physical, plays the run well and covers receivers all over the field. He should be even better in his second season. Brice McCain, who received a lot of playing time as a rookie, is the team's fastest player. He has above-average cover skills, but is weak against the run.



ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... MATT SCHAUB

(how a rival sizes him up)

"(Matt) Schaub's made tremendous progress. You can see how much more confident he's become from the time he leaves the huddle until he gets rid of the ball. He just looks like a legitimate NFL quarterback—tall, sturdy and in command of what they're trying to do. ...

"Their running game wasn't very good, but he made the play-action game work because he fakes well and hides the ball on his hip on the bootleg, which is a big part of their offense. You can tell he's been well coached because he's getting rid of the ball quicker and throwing it away if necessary. He's got a good arm and is very accurate.

The best way to combat what Schaub does is to get backside pressure against their left tackle (Duane Brown), who'll give up some sacks, or get inside pressure and force him to move to one side to eliminate part of the field."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Booty, John David	QB	6-3	213	01/03/1985	2	USC
7 Orlovsky, Dan	QB	6-5	230	08/18/1983	6	Connecticut
8 Schaub, Matt	QB	6-5	240	06/25/1981	7	Virginia

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
65 Brisiel, Mike	G	6-5	300	03/14/1983	3	Colorado State
76 Brown, Duane	T	6-4	315	08/30/1985	3	Virginia Tech
78 Butler, Rashad	T	6-4	308	02/10/1983	5	Miami (FL)
62 Caldwell, Antoine	C	6-3	305	04/19/1986	2	Alabama
75 Helms, Brett	C	6-2	283	04/16/1986	1	LSU
55 Myers, Chris	C	6-4	295	09/15/1981	6	Miami (FL)
74 Smith, Wade	C	6-4	296	04/26/1981	8	Memphis
79 Stenavich, Adam	G	6-4	308	03/11/1983	1	Michigan
64 Studdard, Kasey	G	6-3	302	07/01/1984	4	Texas
63 White, Chris	C	6-2	290	02/28/1983	6	Southern Miss
73 Winston, Eric	T	6-5	314	11/17/1983	5	Miami (FL)

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
37 Foster, Arian	RB	6-1	215	08/24/1986	2	Tennessee
27 Henry, Chris	RB	5-11	230	06/06/1985	4	Arizona
24 Johnson, Jeremiah	RB	5-10	205	02/15/1987	1	Oregon
44 Leach, Vonta	RB	6-0	255	11/06/1981	7	East Carolina
21 Moats, Ryan	RB	5-8	210	12/17/1982	6	Louisiana Tech
20 Slaton, Steve	RB	5-9	215	01/04/1986	3	West Virginia

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
89 Anderson, David	WR	5-10	196	07/28/1983	5	Colorado State
86 Casey, James	TE	6-3	240	09/22/1984	2	Rice
81 Daniels, Owen	TE	6-3	250	11/09/1982	5	Wisconsin
11 Davis, Andre'	WR	6-1	200	06/12/1979	9	Virginia Tech
85 Dreessen, Joel	TE	6-4	250	07/26/1982	5	Colorado State
82 Gaines, Michael	TE	6-2	271	3/30/1980	7	UCF
87 Hill, Anthony	TE	6-6	265	01/02/1985	2	N.C. State
80 Johnson, Andre	WR	6-3	225	07/11/1981	8	Miami (FL)
12 Jones, Jacoby	WR	6-2	210	07/11/1984	4	Lane
17 Martinez, Glenn	WR	6-1	190	11/30/1981	5	Saginaw Valley
83 Walter, Kevin	WR	6-3	218	08/04/1981	8	Eastern Michigan

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
98 Barwin, Connor	DE	6-4	254	10/15/1986	2	Cincinnati
93 Bulman, Tim	DE	6-4	275	10/31/1982	4	Boston College
95 Cody, Shaun	DT	6-4	310	01/22/1983	6	USC
99 Egboh, Pannel	DE	6-6	270	03/23/1986	1	Stanford
96 Jamison, Tim	DE	6-3	270	02/26/1986	2	Michigan
72 Nading, Jesse	DE	6-5	258	07/03/1985	3	Colorado State
97 Okam, Frank	DT	6-5	340	10/16/1985	3	Texas
91 Okoye, Amobi	DT	6-2	315	06/10/1987	4	Louisville
66 Robinson, DeJuan	DT	6-3	320	07/01/1984	3	Mississippi State
94 Smith, Antonio	DE	6-4	295	10/21/1981	7	Oklahoma State
90 Williams, Mario	DE	6-6	295	01/31/1985	5	N.C. State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Barber, Dominique	S	6-0	215	08/02/1986	3	Minnesota
32 Bennett, Fred	CB	6-1	201	12/31/1983	4	South Carolina
41 McCain, Brice	CB	5-9	185	12/10/1986	2	Utah
28 Molden, Antwaun	CB	6-1	202	01/23/1985	3	Eastern Kentucky
33 Nolan, Troy	S	6-2	207	09/07/1986	1	Arizona State
38 Parson, Mark	CB	5-10	192	05/09/1986	2	Ohio
31 Pollard, Bernard	S	6-1	224	12/23/1984	5	Purdue
29 Quin, Glover	CB	6-0	205	01/15/1986	2	New Mexico
35 Reeves, Jacques	CB	5-11	195	10/08/1982	7	Purdue
26 Wilson, Eugene	S	5-10	195	08/17/1980	8	Illinois

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
52 Adibi, Xavier	LB	6-2	242	10/18/1984	3	Virginia Tech
57 Bentley, Kevin	LB	6-0	248	12/29/1979	9	Northwestern
50 Bing, Darnell	LB	6-2	220	09/10/1984	3	USC
56 Cushing, Brian	LB	6-3	260	01/24/1987	2	USC
54 Diles, Zac	LB	6-0	245	06/11/1985	4	Kansas State
59 Ryans, DeMeco	LB	6-1	250	07/28/1984	5	Alabama

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Brown, Kris	K	5-11	215	12/23/1976	12	Nebraska
4 Rackers, Neil	K	6-1	206	08/16/1976	11	Illinois
1 Turk, Matt	P	6-5	251	06/16/1968	15	Wisconsin-Whitewater

» GARY KUBIAK, *Head coach*
Rick Dennison, offensive coordinator; **Frank Bush,** defensive coordinator; **Joe Marciano,** special teams coordinator; **John Benton,** offensive line; **Frank Pollack,** offensive line assistant; **Chick Harris,** running backs; **Brian Pariani,** tight ends; **Larry Kirksey,** wide receivers; **Greg Knapp,** quarterbacks; **David Gibbs,** secondary; **Perry Carter,** secondary assistant; **Johnny Holland,** linebackers; **Robet Saleh,** linebackers assistant; **Bill Kollar,** assistant head coach/ defensive line

BEN LIEBENBERG / GETTY IMAGES

Two disappointing veterans—Fred Bennett and Antwaun Molden—are also in the mix. Bennett started eight games as a rookie three years ago, but hasn't come close to fulfilling his potential. Molden has been injured too much in his two seasons.

Strong safety Bernard Pollard was outstanding after being signed early last season and started the last 13 games. He's a brute force against the run and tied for the team lead with four interceptions in 2009. Free safety Eugene Wilson is good enough when healthy, but he was injured too much last season. **GRADE: C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The coaches were unhappy with kicker Kris Brown, who missed 11 field goals a year ago, including two that would have forced overtime in losses to Indianapolis and Tennessee. So Neil Rackers was signed to compete with Brown. Rackers made 16 of 17 field goals last season, but Arizona wouldn't give him $2 million a year like the Texans did. The competition should be fierce and could last until the last roster reduction.

Punter Matt Turk was re-signed after compiling a 42.8 gross and 39.4 net average. Jacoby Jones is a terrific punt and kickoff return man. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

Barring injuries, the Texans could have their best season yet. They have stability in their coaching staff and a patient owner in Bob McNair, who doesn't panic. The running game should be improved on offense, while turning up the pressure on the quarterback is paramount for a defense that wants to finish in the top five.

But it will likely come down to how the Texans do in the AFC South, where they've yet to dominate. Beating division favorites Indianapolis and Tennessee at least once during the season will go a long way in the team's confidence and a hopeful playoff appearance.

79
FINAL GRADE

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Matt Schaub finally showed us what he can do in a full, healthy season: 4,770 yards and 29 touchdowns. But don't forget that he has missed five games in each of the previous two seasons.

BUY
Andre Johnson
WR

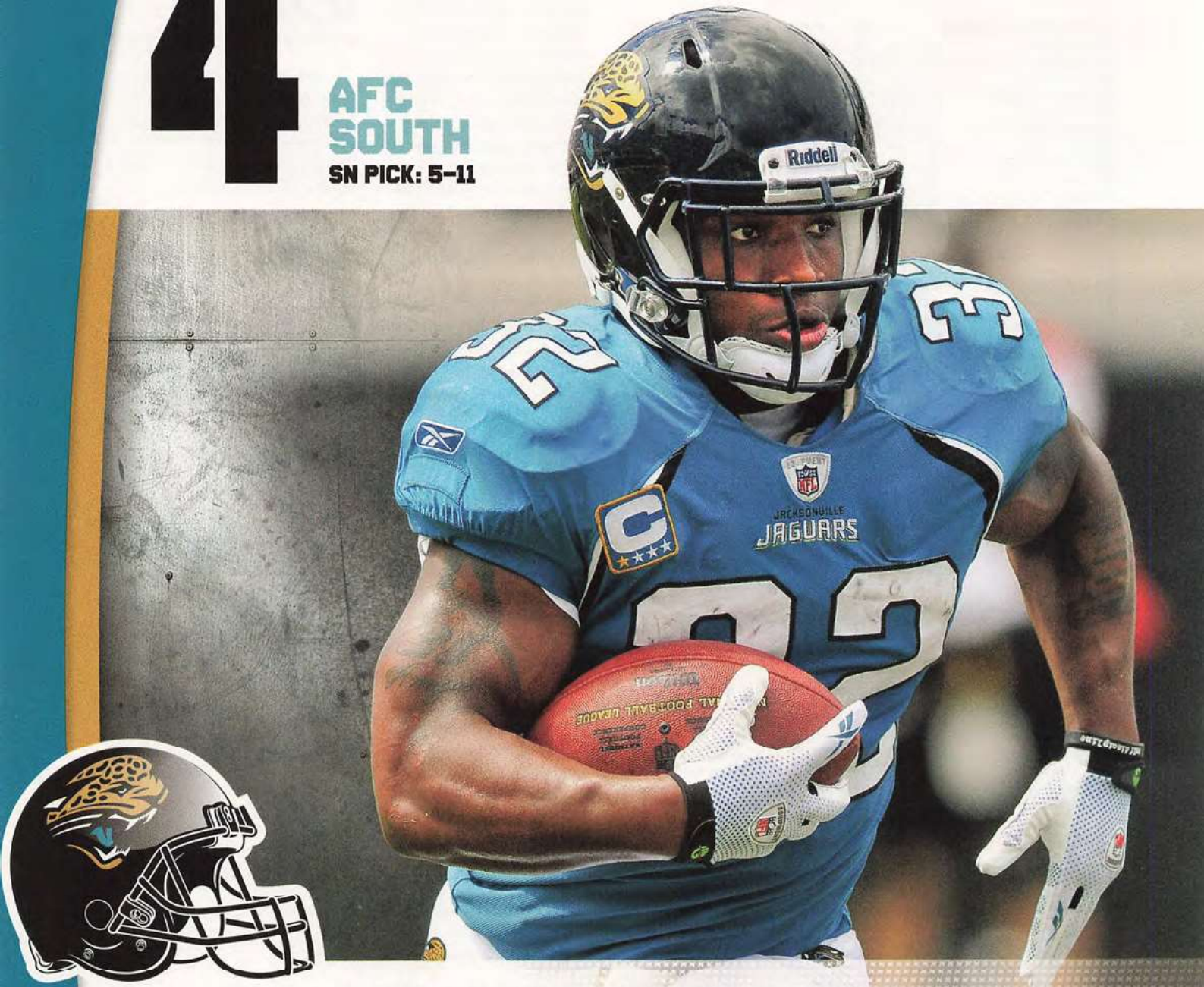
SELL
Kevin Walter
WR

SLEEPER
Ben Tate
RB

4

AFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 5-11



JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

MAURICE JONES-DREW, RB

Jags expect giant leap from youngsters in playoff pursuit

By Michael C. Wright, *correspondent*

With a legitimate shot at making the playoffs in 2009, the Jaguars faded down the stretch, losing their last four games.

Attribute the slide to youth, which will no longer be an excuse this season.

The Jaguars underwent extensive roster turnover before 2009, starting the year with 17 additions who played vital roles. In fact, Jacksonville rookies combined to make 71 starts.

This season, the club expects huge steps forward from last year's rookies in addition to improved play from quarterback David Garrard, who could be entering his final campaign as the Jaguars' starter.

OFFENSE

Jacksonville's scheme, which relies on a punishing ground game to set up play-action, will likely receive a facelift now that offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter has been given absolute power in play-calling duties. In the past, former assistant coach Mike Tice and former running backs coach Kennedy Pola were involved in the game-planning, which limited Koetter's creativity. Look for Koetter to open up the passing attack even more this season while taking advantage of Garrard's mobility on bootlegs.

Quarterbacks Garrard's days as a starter could come to an end if the club doesn't see significant improvement from him this season; he's been only average in his three seasons at the helm. After posting a 102.2 passer rating with 18 touchdowns and just three interceptions in 2007, Garrard hasn't taken the next step in his development.

The organization questions Garrard's commitment, saying he doesn't put in the adequate time into preparation and the film room. On the field, it shows, as Garrard struggles to get past his primary reads. In addition, Garrard holds the ball too long—despite his immense mobility—which resulted in him taking 42 sacks in '09.

The acquisition of backup Luke McCown prior to last season proved to be motivation for Garrard. Taking note of McCown's extensive preparation, Garrard purchased a laptop computer to upload and study game film. Prior to McCown's arrival, Garrard hadn't taken such steps.

The club has made it clear Garrard is the starter for 2010, but his performance throughout the offseason, training camp and preseason could change things. Remember the 2007 preseason when Byron Leftwich was the team's unquestioned starter? The Jaguars surprisingly and abruptly pulled the plug on him in favor of Garrard, and they could do it again for McCown if Garrard crumbles. **GRADE: D**

Running backs Maurice Jones-Drew produced 1,391 yards and 15 touchdowns in his first season as the club's full-time starter, and the Jaguars expect similar production moving forward.

The dilemma now is how the club can get more snaps to reserve Rashad Jennings, a seventh-round pick in '09 who came on as the season progressed. Despite his size (6-1, 231 pounds), Jennings isn't as physical and agile a runner as Jones-Drew and often shows stiffness when rushing. If Jennings can do a better job of running low, he could make a significant contribution next season.

Starting fullback Greg Jones is also an alternative at tailback, along with backup fullback Montell Owens. Jones is coming off a season-ending ankle injury. But when healthy, Jones is considered one of the league's best fullbacks.

Rising second-year player Brock Bolen is considered Jacksonville's only pure fullback. Bolen produced some bruising

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

TROY WILLIAMSON — WR

The former first-round pick hasn't lived up to expectations, but that could change in his third season. Williamson has made significant strides in route-running and catching the ball. Now he just needs to stay healthy.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	David Garrard Luke McCown
FB	Greg Jones Montell Owens
RB	Maurice Jones-Drew Rashad Jennings
LT	Eugene Monroe Jordan Black
LG	Vince Manuwai Kynan Forney
C	Brad Meester Cecil Newton
RG	Uche Nwaneri Paul McQuistan
RT	Eben Britton Jordan Black
TE	Marcedes Lewis Ernest Wilford
WR	Mike Sims-Walker Mike Thomas
WR	Troy Williamson Jarett Dillard
	DEFENSE
DE	Aaron Kampman Julius Williams
DT	Tyson Alualu Atiyyah Ellison
DT	Terrance Knighton D'Anthony Smith
DE	Derrick Harvey Reggie Hayward
SLB	Daryl Smith Russell Allen
MLB	Kirk Morrison Russell Allen
WLB	Freddy Keiaho Justin Durant
LCB	Derek Cox Tyron Brackenridge
SS	Gerald Alexander Sean Considine
FS	Anthony Smith Reggie Nelson
RCB	Rashean Mathis Scott Starks
	SPECIALISTS
K	Josh Scobee
P	Adam Podlesh
KR	Deji Karim
PR	Deji Karim
LS	Jeremy Cain

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 7-9 HOME: 5-3

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/jaguars
www.jaguars.com

STADIUM
Jacksonville Municipal Stadium
Capacity: 67,164 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 904-633-2000
Training Camp: Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, Jacksonville, Fla.; 904-333-6000

OPPOSITE PAGE: FERNANDO MEDINA / US PRESSWIRE

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Jaguars)

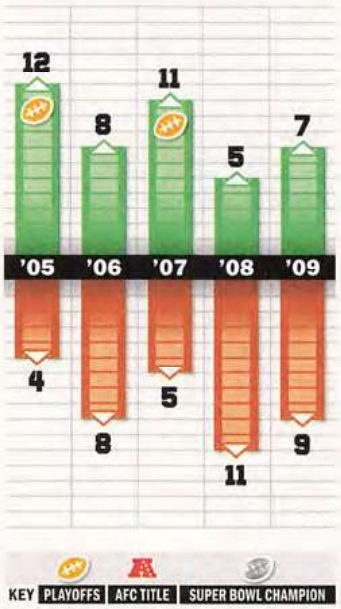
"Like with every team out there, it all comes from the top. Well, I keep hearing from folks around the league that (Jack) Del Rio is a train wreck. Do I believe that? I don't know. His teams seem to play hard for the most part. But I thought they gave up at times last year and other times didn't come ready to play, especially in the Tennessee game. ...

"The quarterback isn't bad. I like his mobility and he's got a pretty strong arm. He took some sacks last season, but they were starting two rookies at tackle. The running back (Maurice Jones-Drew) is their best offensive player. They will have to lean on him quite a bit. You've got to wonder how much he can take. ...

"On defense, the biggest problem to me is they can't get to the quarterback. The corners are pretty good, although I think (Rashean) Mathis is probably a little overrated. ...

"Right now I would say (Maurice) Jones-Drew is what makes that team go. If you can take him away—which isn't easy—you've got a good shot."

5-YEAR RECORD: 43–37



plays last preseason before spending '09 on the practice squad. Jacksonville drafted Southern Illinois' Deji Karim in the sixth round, but his primary role will likely come on special teams. **GRADE: A**

Receivers ›› Mike Sims-Walker is coming off a breakout season (63 catches, 869 yards, 7 TDs), and is considered Jacksonville's No. 1 receiver. He possesses the best hands on the roster and is the club's most polished route runner. But the Jaguars are concerned about Sims-Walker's susceptibility to injury, as he has played in just 24 games since being drafted in 2007.

Ironically, a season-ending shoulder injury to Troy Williamson in Week 2 paved the way for Sims-Walker's breakout season. This year, Sims-Walker and Williamson go into training camp as Jacksonville's top targets.

Williamson possesses the deep speed to draw safety coverage over the top, which should allow No. 3 receiver Mike Thomas to match up well in the slot. Thomas, who also contributes in the return game, excels at gaining yards after the catch. The team also utilizes him in the running attack on reverses.

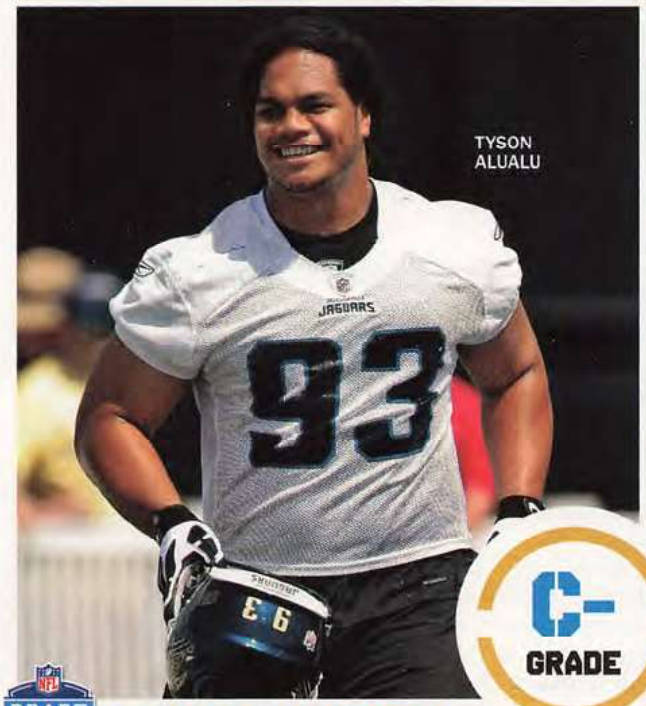
Jarett Dillard and Tiquan Underwood will also figure into the mix for the reserve slots. Considered a quick possession receiver with sure hands, Dillard was beginning to impress before sustaining a season-ending ankle injury in November. Underwood has deep speed but struggled last year to adjust to the nuances of the pro game. Nate Hughes is also a candidate for a backup role. **GRADE: C+**

Offensive line ›› Jacksonville might have landed its franchise bookends at offensive tackle when it used its first two picks in last year's draft on left tackle Eugene Monroe and right tackle Eben Britton.

While Monroe struggled early on, he improved during the season and gives the Jaguars hope that he'll be a good protector of Garrard's blind side. But Monroe still needs to improve as a run blocker.

Britton, meanwhile, performed well as a run blocker but struggled against more athletic edge rushers. The Jags love the

DRAFT REPORT



C– GRADE

›› 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	10	Tyson Alualu	DE	6-3	295	California
3	10	D'Anthony Smith	DT	6-2	304	Louisiana Tech
5	12	Larry Hart	LB	6-1	248	Central Arkansas
5	22	Austen Lane	DE	6-6	276	Murray State
6	11	Deji Karim	RB	5-9	209	Southern Illinois
6	34	Scotty McGee	CB	5-8	185	James Madison

The drafting of defensive end **Tyson Alualu** at No. 10 overall was a shock. Not because he lacks talent, but because he's not a dominant player and teams aren't sure if he's better in a 4-3 or 3-4 scheme. He could develop into a strongside defensive end in two or three seasons. Luckily, the Jaguars hit a home run with their third-round pick, **D'Anthony Smith**. He will be a dominant interior force for the defense.

The Jags took two small-school players in the fifth round in **Larry Hart** (Central Arkansas) and **Austen Lane** (Murray State). Both have good athleticism and development potential but need to be polished. Hart will likely switch to outside linebacker from defensive end, as he's undersized for the end position in the NFL. Running back **Deji Karim** has excellent vision and instincts and was a great runner and return man in college, but the Jags will be lucky to see that production at the next level.

CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	12-14	at Indianapolis Colts
09/20	L	17-31	Arizona Cardinals
09/27	W	31-24	at Houston Texans
10/04	W	37-17	Tennessee Titans
10/11	L	0-41	at Seattle Seahawks
10/18	W	23-20	St. Louis Rams
11/01	L	13-30	at Tennessee Titans
11/08	W	24-21	Kansas City Chiefs
11/15	W	24-22	at New York Jets
11/22	W	18-15	Buffalo Bills
11/29	L	3-20	at San Francisco 49ers
12/06	W	23-18	Houston Texans
12/13	L	10-14	Miami Dolphins
12/17	L	31-35	Indianapolis Colts
12/27	L	7-35	at New England Patriots
01/03	L	17-23	at Cleveland Browns

WON 7, LOST 9

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jones-Drew	312	1391	4.5	80	15
Garrard	77	323	4.2	30	3
Jennings	39	202	5.2	28	1
Thomas	12	86	7.2	22	0
Jones	4	23	5.8	11	0
Miller	1	3	3.0	3	0
Owens	2	1	0.5	3	0
JAGUARS	447	2029	4.5	80	19
OPPONENTS	458	1863	4.1	89	12

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sims-Walker	63	869	13.8	61	7
Jones-Drew	53	374	7.1	19	1
Holt	51	722	14.2	63	0
Thomas	48	453	9.4	28	1
Lewis	32	518	16.2	47	2
Miller	21	212	10.1	62	2
Jennings	16	101	6.3	14	0
Wilford	11	123	11.2	30	1
Dillard	6	106	17.7	33	0
Hughes	5	70	14.0	35	1
Jones	5	14	2.8	9	0
Williamson	3	34	11.3	13	0
Potter	1	3	3.0	3	0
JAGUARS	315	3356	10.7	63	15
OPPONENTS	345	3774	10.9	98	28

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Garrard	516	314	3597	15	10
McCown	3	1	2	0	0
JAGUARS	519	315	3356	15	10
OPPONENTS	510	345	3774	28	15

SACKS JAGUARS 14, OPPONENTS 44

Henderson 3, Harvey 2, Knighton 1.5, Smith 1.5, Durant 1, Ellison 1, Hayward 1, Ingram 1, Stanley 1

aggression with which Britton plays, but would like to see him improve his footwork.

The interior of Jacksonville's line struggled last season. Coming off a shredded knee from the year before, left guard Vince Manuwai played a limited role last season but should be back at full strength in 2010. Right guard Uche Nwaneri and center Brad Meester were inconsistent at times last year, and their jobs may be on the line this season.

Center Cecil Newton serves as Meester's primary backup. Kynan Forney and Cameron Stephenson provide depth at guard, while Jordan Black and Paul McQuistan are the backups at tackle. **GRADE C+**

DEFENSE

Mel Tucker holds the title of defensive coordinator, but coach Jack Del Rio says he'll take over play-calling responsibilities in 2010. Tucker excels at tutoring the secondary, but most of his expertise as a coordinator comes from working in a 3-4 defense, while Del Rio's background is in the 4-3. With Del Rio calling the plays, look for the Jaguars to utilize a variety of cover 2 looks. They'll also rely on pressure from the front four to avoid putting the secondary in a bind. But Del Rio won't be afraid to manufacture pressure with corners, safeties or linebackers on third downs.

Defensive line Shoddy play up front led to the Jaguars finishing the year ranked last with just 14 sacks, which tied for fifth-worst in NFL history. To address its struggling pass rush, Jacksonville signed defensive end/linebacker Aaron Kampman in free agency.

While Kampman has been productive throughout his tenure, he's coming off a season-ending knee injury, so question marks remain. Derrick Harvey, who will start opposite Kampman on the left side, has produced just 5.5 sacks since being selected in the first round in 2008. But the Jaguars like his tenacity and ability as a run stuffer.

At defensive tackle, the Jags used the draft to perform a serious overhaul. After releasing longtime interior stalwart John Henderson, they selected Cal's Tyson Alualu at No. 10 overall to start opposite rising second-year player Terrance Knighton. Alualu's relentless motor and penetrating style fits well with the team's new attacking 4-3 scheme.

But the club appears to lack proven depth at tackle and end, which the franchise attempted to fill with third-rounder D'Anthony Smith and rookie free agent Kommonyan Quaye. Rising second-year players Julius Williams and Jeremy Navarre will also compete for reserve roles along with Jeremy Mincey, Chris Harrington and veteran Reggie Hayward, who started last year opposite Harvey before breaking his leg in the season opener.

Rookies Austen Lane and Larry Hart look to provide competition at defensive end, while Atiyyah Ellison will likely win the job as the third tackle in the rotation. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers Jacksonville's linebacker talent has been rich in the past. But this is now the position

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JACK DEL RIO

Del Rio has proven to be a risk-taker. But it'll be interesting to see how much input he'll have with the offensive calls since he's taking on play-calling duties for the defense. It appears the defense will be a much more aggressive unit behind Del Rio.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	336.6	18
RUSHING	126.8	10
PASSING	209.8	19
SCORING	290	24
PUNT RETURNS	8.6	14
KICK RETURNS	22.6	17
RED ZONE TD %	51.1	17
TOTAL DEFENSE	352.3	23
AGAINST RUSH	116.4	19
AGAINST PASS	235.9	27
POINTS ALLOWED	380	24
INTERCEPTIONS	15	16t
SACKS	14	32
TURNOVER DIFF.	2	13t

JAGUARS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Tony Brackens** *(1996-2003)* — **55.0**
2. **Joel Smeenge** *(1995-2000)* — **34.0**
3. **John Henderson** *(2002-present)* — **29.0**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Denver — SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 2 @ San Diego — SEPT. 19 | 4:15 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 3 Philadelphia — SEPT. 26 | 4:05 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 4 Indianapolis — OCT. 3 | 4:05 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 5 @ Buffalo — OCT. 10 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 6 Tennessee — OCT. 18 | 8:30 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 7 @ Kansas City — OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 8 @ Dallas — OCT. 31 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 9 OPEN DATE

WEEK 10 Houston — NOV. 14 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 11 Cleveland — NOV. 21 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 12 @ N.Y. Giants — NOV. 28 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 13 @ Tennessee — DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 14 Oakland — DEC. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 15 @ Indianapolis — DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 16 Washington — DEC. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 17 @ Houston — JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

that has the most uncertainty. Del Rio and general manager Gene Smith believe veteran outside linebacker Daryl Smith (107 tackles) is the club's only bona fide starter.

Justin Durant, who started in the middle last season, will move outside, where he'll likely back up free-agent addition Freddy Keiaho. Kirk Morrison, acquired from the Raiders in a spring trade, will take over at middle linebacker.

Bryan Smith and Russell Allen are the backups. Allen made a few starts last season and falls into the run-and-hit category the Jaguars covet. He'll be given serious consideration for the starting spot if he can prove himself in training camp. Meanwhile, Smith's future appears uncertain, as he's a better fit in a 3-4 scheme. **GRADE B-**

Secondary ▸▸ The secondary possesses plenty of depth at cornerback in Rashean Mathis and Derek Cox but lacks any legitimate starters at safety.

A rookie last season, Cox started all 16 games and should make a significant leap in his second year. Mathis is regarded as one of the league's top cover corners, but hasn't started a full season since 2006.

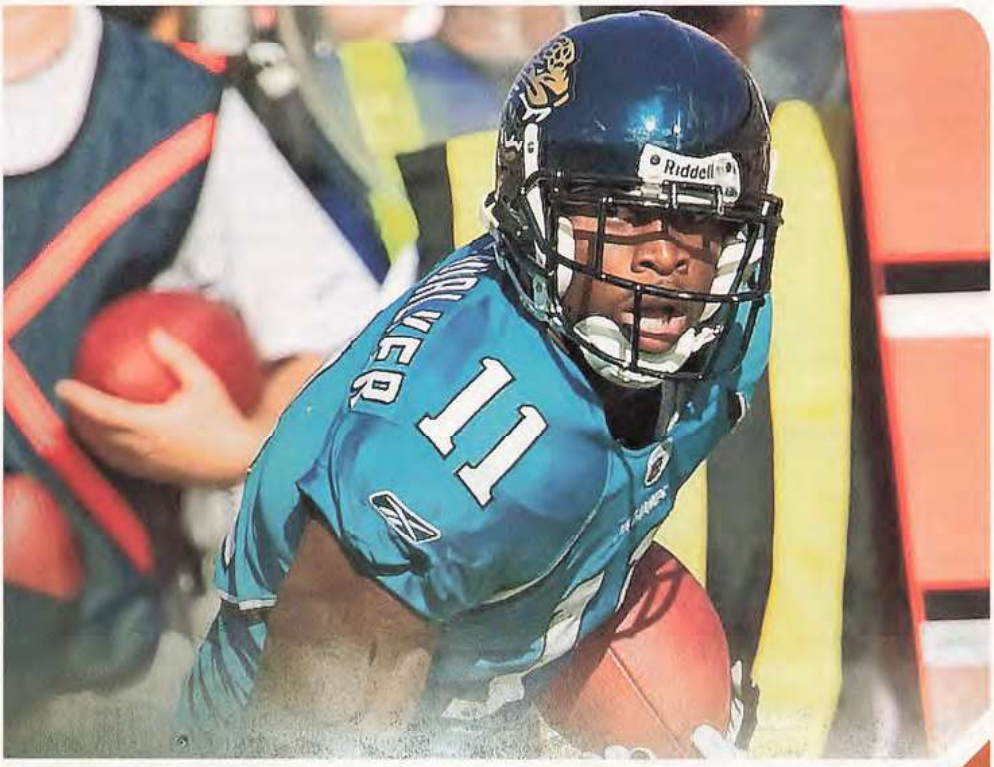
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

DE Aaron Kampman *(FA/Packers)*, **LB Kirk Morrison** *(trade/Raiders)*, **LB Freddy Keiaho** *(FA/Colts)*, **WR Kassim Osgood** *(FA/Chargers)*

SUBTRACTIONS

DT John Henderson *(FA)*, **WR Torry Holt** *(FA/Patriots)*, **DE Quentin Groves** *(trade/Raiders)*, **LB Tank Daniels** *(FA)*, **LB Clint Ingram** *(FA)*, **LB Brian Iwuh** *(FA)*



CSM / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... MIKE SIMS-WALKER

(how a rival sizes him up)

"I thought Sims-Walker finally stepped it up and turned into the player Jacksonville needed him to be. He's a pretty big target with good hands—although I think he loses concentration at times—a pretty good route runner with deceptive speed. Is he really (a No.) 1? I still don't know. If you look at it, his production wasn't consistent enough for me. It seemed like he kind of tapered off toward the end of November. But then again, there was a little inconsistency at quarterback that could have played a role in some of that. ...

"I would also worry about his commitment. Didn't he get suspended for a game for doing something on the road (Sims-Walker was suspended in Week 5 for violating team rules)? ...

"There is also the concern about injuries with him. He's missed a lot of time with knee injuries. With those kinds of injuries, there's always concern. You never know. I said earlier that he's got deceptive speed, but I don't think he's fast enough to really scare anyone as a threat to go deep. I'll be interested to see how he handles his success."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Garrard, David	QB	6-1	245	02/14/1978	9	East Carolina
12 McCown, Luke	QB	6-3	217	07/12/1981	7	Louisiana Tech

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
78 Black, Jordan	T	6-5	310	01/28/1980	7	Notre Dame
73 Britton, Eben	T	6-6	310	10/14/1987	2	Arizona
61 Crummey, Andrew	G	6-5	301	10/22/1984	2	Maryland
65 Forney, Kynan	G	6-3	302	09/08/1978	10	Hawaii
67 Manuwai, Vince	G	6-2	329	07/12/1980	8	Hawaii
79 McQuistan, Paul	G	6-6	315	04/30/1983	5	Weber State
63 Meester, Brad	C	6-3	295	03/23/1977	11	Northern Iowa
75 Monroe, Eugene	T	6-5	320	04/18/1987	2	Virginia
64 Newton, Cecil	C	6-2	305	03/20/1986	1	Tennessee State
77 Nwaneri, Uche	G	6-3	330	03/20/1984	4	Purdue
70 Stephenson, Cameron	G	6-3	314	06/18/1983	2	Rutgers

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Bolen, Brock	RB	6-0	238	03/24/1985	1	Louisville
48 Cain, Jeremy	RB	6-1	240	03/24/1980	4	Massachusetts
23 Jennings, Rashad	RB	6-1	231	03/26/1985	2	Liberty
33 Jones, Greg	RB	6-1	254	05/09/1981	7	Florida State
32 Jones-Drew, Maurice	RB	5-7	208	03/23/1985	5	UCLA
24 Owens, Montell	RB	5-10	225	05/04/1984	5	Maine
34 Patrick, Allen	RB	6-1	200	02/15/1984	1	Oklahoma

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Denmark, Clarence	WR	5-11	185	09/29/1985	1	Arkansas-Monticello
87 Dillard, Jarett	WR	5-10	187	12/21/1985	2	Rice
16 Hughes, Nate	WR	6-2	190	01/18/1985	2	Alcorn State
89 Lewis, Marcedes	TE	6-6	275	05/19/1984	5	UCLA
86 Miller, Zach	TE	6-4	245	10/04/1984	2	Nebraska-Omaha
81 Osgood, Kassim	WR	6-5	220	05/20/1980	8	San Diego State
88 Potter, Zach	TE	6-7	280	05/04/1986	1	Nebraska
11 Sims-Walker, Mike	WR	6-2	214	11/21/1984	4	UCF
80 Thomas, Mike	WR	5-8	195	06/04/1987	2	Arizona
19 Underwood, Tiquan	WR	6-1	178	02/17/1987	2	Rutgers
85 Wilford, Ernest	TE	6-4	235	01/14/1979	7	Virginia Tech
84 Williamson, Troy	WR	6-1	203	04/30/1983	6	South Carolina

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
60 Curry, Walter	DT	6-4	241	06/18/1981	1	Albany State (GA)
99 Ellison, Atiyyah	DT	6-3	318	09/29/1981	5	Missouri
55 Harrington, Chris	DE	6-5	260	01/19/1985	2	Texas A&M
91 Harvey, Derrick	DE	6-5	271	11/09/1986	3	Florida
97 Hayward, Reggie	DE	6-5	275	03/14/1979	10	Iowa State
74 Kampman, Aaron	DE	6-4	265	11/30/1979	9	Iowa
96 Knighton, Terrance	DT	6-3	325	07/04/1986	2	Temple
94 Mincey, Jeremy	DE	6-3	260	12/14/1983	3	Florida
46 Navarre, Jeremy	DE	6-3	279	03/16/1987	2	Maryland
95 Stanley, Montavious	DT	6-2	302	10/10/1981	5	Louisville
90 Williams, Julius	DE	6-2	260	07/19/1986	2	Connecticut

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
42 Alexander, Gerald	S	6-2	204	06/28/1984	4	Boise State
41 Brackenridge, Tyron	CB	5-11	188	06/30/1984	4	Washington State
22 Carey, Don	CB	6-1	180	02/14/1987	1	Norfolk State
26 Coe, Michael	CB	6-0	190	12/17/1983	4	Alabama State
37 Considine, Sean	S	6-0	212	12/17/1982	6	Iowa
21 Cox, Derek	CB	6-1	186	09/22/1986	2	William & Mary
36 Greene, Courtney	S	6-0	212	11/23/1986	2	Rutgers
27 Mathis, Rashean	CB	6-1	190	08/27/1980	8	Bethune-Cookman
29 Middleton, William	CB	5-11	194	07/28/1986	2	Furman
25 Nelson, Reggie	S	5-11	202	09/21/1983	4	Florida
20 Smith, Anthony	S	6-0	200	09/20/1983	5	Syracuse
31 Starks, Scott	CB	5-9	176	06/27/1983	6	Wisconsin

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Allen, Russell	LB	6-3	234	05/05/1986	2	San Diego State
56 Durant, Justin	LB	6-1	232	09/20/1985	4	Hampton
54 Keiaho, Freddy	LB	5-11	226	12/18/1982		San Diego State
55 Morrison, Kirk	LB	6-2	240	02/19/1982		San Diego State
53 Smith, Bryan	LB	6-2	250	11/29/1983	3	McNeese State
52 Smith, Daryl	LB	6-2	245	03/14/1982	7	Georgia Tech

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Podlesh, Adam	P	5-11	198	08/11/1983	4	Maryland
10 Scobee, Josh	K	6-1	192	06/23/1982	7	Louisiana Tech

» **JACK DEL RIO,** *Head coach*
Dirk Koetter, offensive coordinator; **Mel Tucker,** defensive coordinator; **Russ Purnell,** special teams coordinator; **Andy Heck,** offensive line; **Earnest Byner,** running backs; **Rob Boras,** tight ends; **Todd Monken,** wide receivers; **Mike Shula,** quarterbacks; **Cory Undlin,** secondary; **Thom Kaumeyer,** secondary assistant; **Mark Duffner,** linebackers; **Joe Cullen,** defensive line; **Ben Albert,** defensive line assistant; **Nate Kaczor,** special teams assistant

GETTY IMAGES

At safety, Reggie Nelson is on shaky ground after struggling for two straight seasons following a strong rookie campaign in 2007 in which he led the team with five interceptions.

Though the duo needs to develop some chemistry, Gerald Alexander and Anthony Smith should take the starting safety spots. They'll be challenged by Nelson, Sean Considine and Courtney Greene. William Middleton and Scott Starks will compete for the starting nickel role along with Tyron Brackenridge, who started five games last season. **GRADE C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Josh Scobee possesses one of the strongest legs in the league, which has gotten the Jaguars into trouble on occasion. Scobee attempted nine field goals from distances of 50 yards or more in 2009, connecting on just four.

Punter Adam Podlesh is coming off a season in which he produced career highs in punts (72), yards (3,017), net average (38.3) and punts inside the 20-yard line (23).

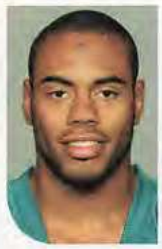
Look for Karim to step in as the club's main punt and kickoff return specialist. If the rookie can't get the job done, Thomas will fill the spot. **GRADE B-**

FANTASY SPIN
www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

In his first season as a feature back, Maurice Jones-Drew totaled 1,765 yards with 16 touchdowns. He's a beast in point-per-reception leagues and has no immediate threat to his carries.

BUY
Mike Sims-Walker
WR

SELL
David Garrard
QB



SLEEPER
Rashad Jennings
RB

BOTTOM LINE

It's time for this young Jaguars unit to grow up, starting with Garrard, who enters his fourth season as the club's full-time starter.

If the Jags can overcome youth and improve their struggling pass rush, they might possess just enough offensive firepower to make a serious run at an AFC wild-card spot.

The team put itself in a prime position by controlling its own playoff destiny last season, but a repeat of the club's inconsistency from 2009 could result in Del Rio losing his job. In effect, Del Rio's future is tied to the performance of Garrard.

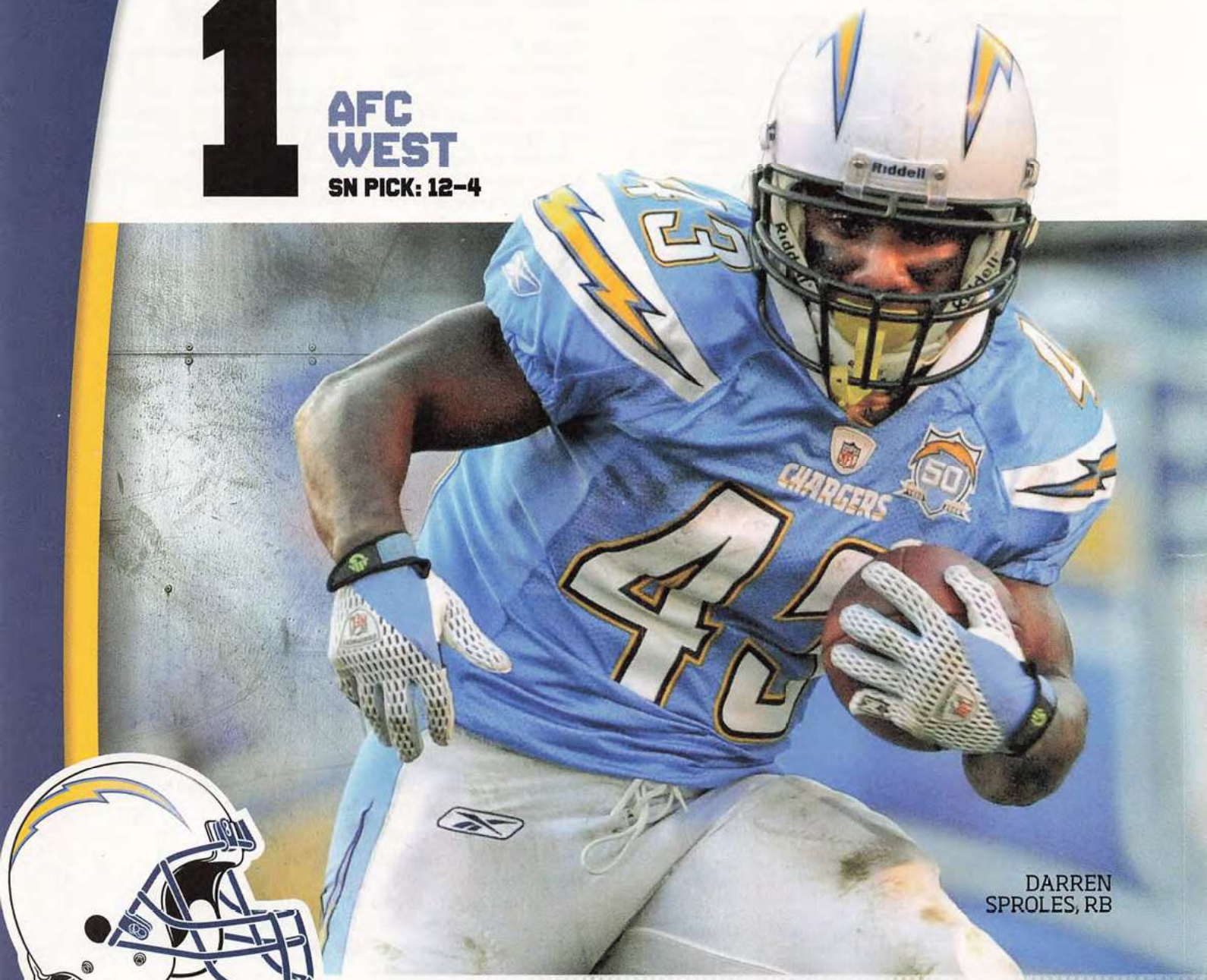
72
FINAL GRADE

UP
STOCK REPORT

1

AFC WEST

SN PICK: 12-4



DARREN SPROLES, RB

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Bolts again division favorites, but true test comes in playoffs

By Kevin Acee, *San Diego Union-Tribune*

As if it matters, the Chargers are poised to win a fifth straight AFC West title. Yawn. Any success they have before January will be moot. The Chargers—whose 67 regular season victories since 2004 are third most in the NFL—will be measured by their playoff triumphs.

In fact, anything short of a Super Bowl will be seen as failure.

Into this ever-mounting pressure, San Diego will begin its season without two franchise cornerstones—running back LaDainian Tomlinson and nose tackle Jamal Williams.

While the rest of the division appears to have improved, it cannot yet measure up to the Chargers' depth and diversity. So another foray into the postseason—their sixth in seven seasons—is likely.

It is there that the core group of Chargers will cement their legacies.

"If you want to be remembered," says coach Norv Turner, sounding a refrain he has often voiced to his team, "you have to perform in the postseason."

OFFENSE

For the first time in nine seasons, someone besides Tomlinson will be the primary ballcarrier. This should have a minimal effect on the look of the offense, though. This is Philip Rivers' offense, and he has big-play receivers in Malcom Floyd, Antonio Gates and Vincent Jackson. But San Diego would like to run the ball more than it did last year, particularly in the fourth quarter.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ Rivers was signed to a six-year, $92 million extension last August because the Chargers believe he can be the leader in their quest for a first Super Bowl title.

Rivers has been one of the NFL's top passers over the past two seasons and thrown more touchdowns (62) than any quarterback but Drew Brees (68). With two straight 4,000-yard seasons, he joins Hall of Famer Dan Fouts as the only two Chargers to have such a season.

While he has established himself as a favorite of teammates and a leader even before becoming the starter, look for Rivers to assert himself even more now that Tomlinson is gone. Always vocal and quick with a positive word or playful tease, Rivers has become a driving force when it's time to get tough in the locker room, too.

GRADE: A

Running backs ▸▸ The Chargers moved up 16 spots in the first round to find Tomlinson's replacement. And Ryan Mathews has many of Tomlinson's on- and off-field traits that prompted San Diego to invest so much in him.

Still, Mathews won't be expected to do everything, as the Chargers will rely on Darren Sproles at times, particularly on third downs. It is likely Mathews will get about 250 carries his rookie season, while Sproles could have as many as 100.

The shifty and elusive Sproles will provide a contrast to Mathews, who is at his best between the tackles. A player who can run the clock out and is capable of turning routine first-down runs into big gains is what the Chargers lacked in 2009. If Mathews can be that player, San Diego's already-potent offense could vault to the top of the NFL. **GRADE: B+**

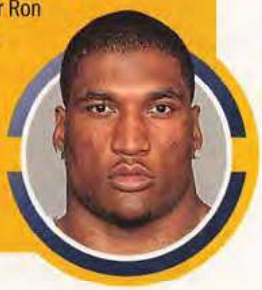
Receivers ▸▸ The Chargers have two solid starting pass catchers and one of the best pass-catching tight ends. All of them are at least 6-4 and, with the bonus of being able to run fast, they catch almost everything thrown their way.

With two receivers setting up outside, the

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

LARRY ENGLISH — LB

English was one step or a poor angle from making a number of big plays last year. With coordinator Ron Rivera prone to using multiple players in a rotation, English will again get a lot of snaps and could develop into a difference-maker.



PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Philip Rivers Billy Volek
FB	Mike Tolbert Jacob Hester
RB	Ryan Mathews Darren Sproles
LT	Marcus McNeill Corey Clark
LG	Kris Dielman Brandyn Dombrowski
C	Nick Hardwick Scott Mruczkowski
RG	Louis Vasquez Tyronne Green
RT	Jeromey Clary Brandyn Dombrowski
TE	Antonio Gates Kris Wilson
WR	Vincent Jackson Legedu Naanee
WR	Malcom Floyd Buster Davis
DEFENSE	
DE	Luis Castillo Alfonso Boone
NT	Antonio Garay Cam Thomas
DE	Jacques Cesaire Vaughn Martin
OLB	Shawne Merriman Antwan Applewhite
ILB	Stephen Cooper Brandon Siler
ILB	Kevin Burnett Donald Butler
OLB	Shaun Phillips Larry English
LCB	Quentin Jammer Nathan Vasher
SS	Kevin Ellison Darrell Stuckey
FS	Eric Weddle C.J. Spillman
RCB	Antoine Cason Donald Strickland
SPECIALISTS	
K	Nate Kaeding
P	Mike Scifres
KR	Darren Sproles
PR	Darren Sproles
LS	David Binn

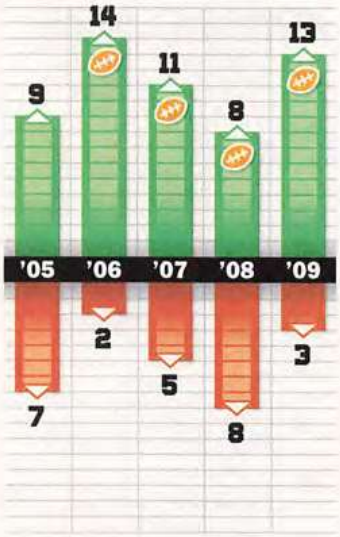
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 13-3 HOME: 6-2

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/chargers
www.chargers.com

STADIUM
Qualcomm Stadium
Capacity: 71,500 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 877-CHARGERS
Training Camp: Chargers Park, San Diego; 858-874-4500

OPPOSITE: IMAGE OF SPORT / NEWSCOM

5-YEAR RECORD: 55-25



KEY PLAYOFFS | AFC TITLE | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Vincent Jackson's 6-5 size makes him an ideal target in the red zone. But a second DUI conviction also made him a target for a possible league suspension. Factor both into your wide receiver rankings.

BUY
Philip Rivers
QB

SELL
Defense/Special Teams

SLEEPER
Ryan Mathews
RB

Chargers have found one of the league's most explosive offenses, and Gates is the centerpiece. He can run like a receiver, and makes catches as if the ball and his hands were magnets.

Jackson is coming off back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons in which he has averaged a league-best 17.2 yards per catch. He has emerged as a dependable deep threat, but has also flourished when lined up inside or running short routes.

Floyd enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2009, catching 34 passes for 525 yards in the nine games after Chris Chambers was released.

Look for the emergence of Legedu Naanee in 2010. He was slowed by a foot injury in 2009 but has shown the potential to be a solid No. 2 receiver.

Buster Davis, the team's 2007 first-round pick, has been active a total of 18 games and has just 30 career receptions. Finally healthy last year, he still didn't produce. Davis possesses great shiftiness and breakaway speed once he catches the ball. It's time for the Chargers to find out what they have in Davis. **GRADE: A**

Offensive line ▸▸ This is a possessed group. Slighted again and again by the man it helped to gain 14,951 yards, the Chargers' line wants to prove they are not just pass blockers on an offense that has lost its physicality.

The line was beset by ankle injuries to center Nick Hardwick (who was out all season except the opener and final two games) and right tackle Jeromey Clary (who missed the final six games). With rookies in guard Louis Vasquez, right tackle Brandyn Dombrowski and backup center Scott Mruczkowski starting, the Chargers still allowed just 26 sacks, sixth fewest in the league.

A healthy Hardwick, a seasoned Vasquez and a perennial Pro Bowl player in Kris Dielman at left guard will provide this year's power source. All three are physical to the point of being nasty, and Vasquez and Hardwick move well enough to be crucial pieces in Turner's screen game.

Left tackle Marcus McNeill is an above-average pass blocker who can be better against the run, while Clary's only struggles come against elite speed rushers. **GRADE: B**

▸ DEFENSE

Even without Williams in the final 15 games and an injured Shawne Merriman, San Diego made a giant improvement in 2009 (from 25th to 16th in total defense and 31st to 11th in passing defense). It did so by learning how to play without Williams and employing a patchwork rotation on the line that consisted of players working 20 to 30 snaps each. Still, the linebackers in the Chargers' 3-4 scheme (Merriman, Shaun Phillips and Larry English) should produce a more consistent pass rush.

Defensive line ▸▸ The line was not dominant in 2009, but the Chargers did

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	360.1	10
RUSHING	88.9	31
PASSING	271.1	5
SCORING	454	4
PUNT RETURNS	7.0	22
KICK RETURNS	22.9	14
RED ZONE TD %	54.0	10
TOTAL DEFENSE	327.0	16
AGAINST RUSH	117.8	20
AGAINST PASS	209.3	11
POINTS ALLOWED	320	11
INTERCEPTIONS	14	20t
SACKS	35	13t
TURNOVER DIFF.	8	6

CHARGERS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Leslie O'Neal** *(1986-95)* — **105.5**
2. **Lee Williams** *(1984-90)* — **65.5**
3. **Junior Seau** *(1990-2002)* — **47.0**

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Chargers)

"How has this team not won a Super Bowl? Every team has talent. What that team has had four or five years running is ridiculous. I think their window is closing, which probably means they'll win the Super Bowl this season. ...

"Forget (LaDainian Tomlinson). You saw he wasn't the same runner (in 2009). They'll be fine on offense. But is (Shawne) Merriman going to be that great player again? (Quentin) Jammer doesn't get his due. He gets to everything. But they don't have anyone who can make plays back there. They haven't been the same since Jamal Williams started getting hurt (in '07) and wouldn't show up some games. ...

"They're a little lucky their division is so weak."

ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/07	W	24-20	at Oakland Raiders
09/14	L	26-31	Baltimore Ravens
09/21	W	23-13	Miami Dolphins
09/28	L	28-38	at Pittsburgh Steelers
10/05	L	23-34	Denver Broncos
10/12	W	37-7	at Kansas City Chiefs
10/26	W	24-16	Oakland Raiders
11/02	W	21-20	at New York Giants
11/10	W	31-23	Philadelphia Eagles
11/16	W	32-3	at Denver Broncos
11/23	W	43-14	Kansas City Chiefs
11/27	W	30-23	at Cleveland Browns
12/07	W	20-17	at Dallas Cowboys
12/14	W	27-24	Cincinnati Bengals
12/21	W	42-17	at Tennessee Titans
12/28	W	23-20	Washington Redskins

WON 13, LOST 3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Tomlinson	223	730	3.3	36	12
Sproles	93	343	3.7	21	3
Tolbert	25	148	5.9	32	1
Hester	21	74	3.5	15	0
Bennett	23	65	2.8	14	0
Rivers	26	50	1.9	15	1
Jackson	3	11	3.7	12	0
Naanee	3	7	2.3	10	0
Davis	1	4	4.0	4	0
Volek	9	-9	-1.0	-1	0
CHARGERS	427	1423	3.3	36	17
OPPONENTS	422	1884	4.5	36	10

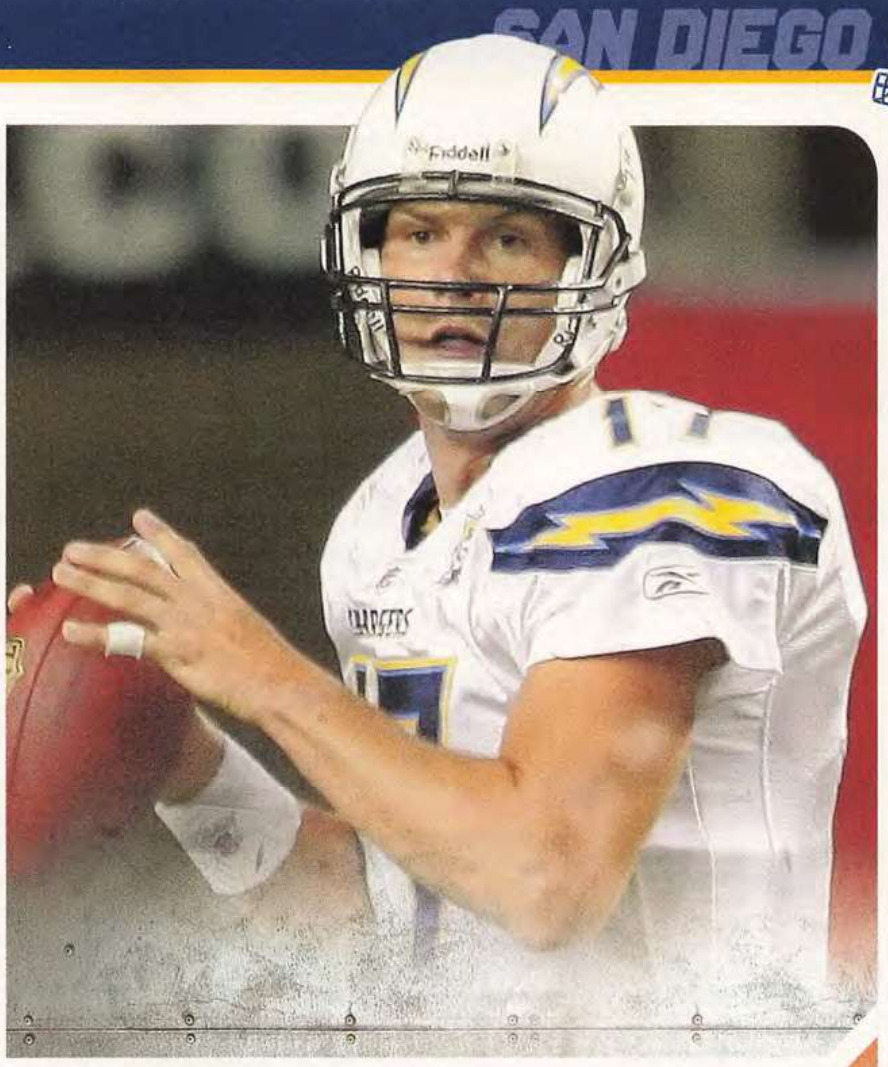
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Gates	79	1157	14.6	56	8
Jackson	68	1167	17.2	55	9
Floyd	45	776	17.2	53	1
Sproles	45	497	11.0	81	4
Naanee	24	242	10.1	23	2
Tomlinson	20	154	7.7	36	0
Tolbert	17	192	11.3	66	3
Hester	9	24	2.7	5	0
Bennett	6	65	10.8	33	0
Davis	6	52	8.7	11	0
Manumaleuna	5	13	2.6	11	0
Wilson	4	28	7.0	21	1
Osgood	1	17	17.0	17	0
CHARGERS	338	4338	12.8	81	29
OPPONENTS	326	3348	10.3	84	23

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Rivers	486	317	4254	28	9
Volek	31	20	231	1	1
Naanee	1	1	21	0	0
Tomlinson	1	0	0	0	0
CHARGERS	519	338	4338	29	10
OPPONENTS	534	326	3348	23	14

SACKS CHARGERS 34, OPPONENTS 26

Phillips 7, Merriman 4, Boone 3, Burnett 2.5, Castillo 2, English 2, Gregory 2, Harris 2, Siler 2, Weddle 1.5, Cesaire 1, Dobbins 1, Ellison 1, Nwagbuo 1, Oliver 1, Scott 1

ICON SMI / NEWSCOM



THE BOOK ON ... PHILIP RIVERS

(how a rival sizes him up)

"The guy can play. He never shuts up, and you can't understand what he's saying. He's a guy you just hate when you're playing him. I know some guys who played with him in college, and (at the Pro Bowl). Those guys (Chargers players) say you'd love to have him as a teammate; he's a great guy. I guess I'm becoming a fan. ...

"I saw some plays he made last year—he was at another level. He's that guy who carries a team, never says die. But it's crazy, because he never stops talking. ...

"He doesn't force throws too often, and he's got those tall receivers who help him out. ...

"I guess you do know you can get to him, because he holds the ball sometimes. But that's part of what makes that kind of guy so good."

find success with a six-man rotation, utilizing most players no more than 30 plays a game and employing various fronts in different situations.

Only left end Luis Castillo participated in more than 40 snaps. By keeping the legs fresh, the Chargers found a way to get above-average seasons out of castoffs Alfonso Boone (at both end and tackle), Travis Johnson (end and tackle) and Ian Scott (at nose tackle).

The Chargers hope they found their future anchor on defense in fifth-round pick Cam Thomas out of North Carolina. The big rookie is expected to enter the rotation and plug the middle on running downs.

An improved defense against the run is vital after opponents averaged 4.3 yards per carry last year. The only protection came on offense, where the Chargers scored in bunches, forcing opposing teams to abandon the run early. Perhaps Thomas, Ogemdi Nwagbuo and Antonio Garay can play a bigger role in stopping the run game.

The team is very high on end Vaughn Martin, a fourth-round pick in '09 who played college football in Canada. He could emerge this season after being

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Kansas City
SEPT. 13 | 10:15
— SCORE

WEEK 2 Jacksonville
SEPT. 19 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 3 @ Seattle
SEPT. 26 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 4 Arizona
OCT. 3 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 5 @ Oakland
OCT. 10 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 6 @ St. Louis
OCT. 17 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 7 New England
OCT. 24 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 8 Tennessee
OCT. 31 | 4:05
— SCORE

WEEK 9 @ Houston
NOV. 7 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 10 OPEN DATE

WEEK 11 Denver
NOV. 22 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 12 @ Indianapolis
NOV. 28 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 13 Oakland
DEC. 5 | 4:05
— SCORE

WEEK 14 Kansas City
DEC. 12 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 15 San Francisco
DEC. 16 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 16 @ Cincinnati
DEC. 26 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 17 @ Denver
JAN. 2 | 4:15
— SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

forced to play inside early last season, where he was overmatched. But Martin is athletic and strong and could be the future at right end or a good fill-in behind Castillo and Jacques Cesaire. **GRADE: C+**

Linebackers Once the pride of the Chargers' defense, this group is in need of a polish. Not an overhaul, just a reassertion of its dominance.

Outside is where the linebackers can make the biggest impact.

Phillips' best season came when Merriman was coming back from major knee surgery and suffered through various nagging ailments, including plantar fasciitis. Now that Merriman is in his second year back from surgery, he should be able to return to Pro Bowl form and help the Chargers leap back into contention on defense.

Merriman's resurgence would benefit both Phillips and English, the team's 2009 first-round pick. The team is also high on Antwan Applewhite, who was injured early in '09 but has shown progress every year and should see significant playing time this season.

The Chargers' leader on defense is Stephen Cooper, who plays both inside positions. His primary mate inside depends on San Diego's chosen attack as well as the opponent's scheme and personnel. Kevin Burnett was brought in prior to 2009 to be a coverage linebacker but was slowed by a neck injury much of last year. When Tim Dobbins was hurt midseason, Brandon Siler emerged as an option. Since Dobbins was traded during the draft, Siler, Burnett or third-round pick Donald Butler will fill in next to Cooper. **GRADE: B**

Secondary The defensive backfield was much improved in 2009 despite many moving parts. It is not, however, a ballhawking group.

Cornerback Quentin Jammer might have had his best season in 2009. He should see fewer passes this year as teams test Antoine Cason. The trade of Antonio Cromartie to the New York Jets hastens the ascension of Cason, the team's first-round pick in 2008.

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

CB Nathan Vasher *(FA/Bears)*, **CB Donald Strickland** *(FA/Jets)*, **K Nick Novak** *(FA)*

SUBTRACTIONS

DT Jamal Williams *(FA/Broncos)*, **RB LaDainian Tomlinson** *(FA/Jets)*, **TE Brandon Manumaleuna** *(FA/Bears)*, **C Eric Ghiaciuc** *(FA/Browns)*, **WR Kassim Osgood** *(FA/Jaguars)*, **LB Tim Dobbins** *(trade/Dolphins)*, **CB Antonio Cromartie** *(trade/Jets)*, **RB Michael Bennett** *(FA)*, **OT Jon Runyan** *(FA)*, **QB Charlie Whitehurst** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **WR Demetrius Byrd** *(FA)*

DRAFT REPORT

ROBERT BENSON / US PRESSWIRE

A+ GRADE

Despite only having six picks, San Diego found three first-round talents. Running back **Ryan Mathews** will start as a rookie and make a big impact on the Chargers' stagnate offense. On the other side of the ball, the Chargers grabbed linebacker **Donald Butler**, who could start next to Stephen Cooper in 2010 and upgrade the defense with his playmaking ability. And getting **Darrell Stuckey** in the fourth round was a good value, as he is a smart and instinctive safety. He may start down the stretch this year.

San Diego was in need of a nose tackle and opted for defensive tackle **Cam Thomas**, who'll convert to nose tackle to fit their scheme. The Chargers' second fifth-round pick was used on quarterback **Jonathan Crompton**, a well-built athlete with zip and accuracy.

2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	12	Ryan Mathews	RB	6-0	218	Fresno State
3	15	Donald Butler	LB	6-1	245	Washington
4	12	Darrell Stuckey	S	6-0	205	Kansas
5	15	Cam Thomas	DT	6-4	330	North Carolina
5	37	Jonathan Crompton	QB	6-3	222	Tennessee
7	28	Dedrick Epps	TE	6-4	246	Miami (Fla.)

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
17 Rivers, Philip	QB	6-5	228	12/08/1981	7	N.C. State
7 Volek, Billy	QB	6-2	214	04/28/1976	11	Fresno State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Binn, David	C	6-3	228	02/06/1972	17	California
75 Clark, Corey	T	6-5	325	06/21/1984	3	Texas A&M
66 Clary, Jeromey	T	6-6	320	11/05/1983	4	Kansas State
68 Dielman, Kris	G	6-4	320	02/03/1981	8	Indiana
62 Dombrowski, Brandyn	G	6-5	323	04/03/1985	2	San Diego State
69 Green, Tyronne	G	6-2	308	04/06/1986	2	Auburn
61 Hardwick, Nick	C	6-4	295	09/02/1981	7	Purdue
60 McDonald, Ryan	C	6-4	293	08/21/1985	1	Illinois
73 McNeill, Marcus	T	6-7	336	11/16/1983	5	Auburn
63 Mruczkowski, Scott	C	6-5	325	04/05/1982	6	Bowling Green
65 Vasquez, Louis	G	6-5	325	04/11/1987	2	Texas Tech

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Brinkley, Curtis	RB	5-9	203	09/20/1985	1	Syracuse
22 Hester, Jacob	RB	5-11	225	05/08/1985	3	LSU
34 Latsko, Billy	RB	5-10	233	02/16/1984	1	Florida
32 Mason, Marcus	RB	5-9	215	06/23/1984	3	Youngstown State
43 Sproles, Darren	RB	5-6	185	06/20/1983	6	Kansas State
35 Tolbert, Mike	RB	5-9	243	11/23/1985	3	Coastal Carolina

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
12 Banks, Gary	WR	6-0	193	11/04/1981	1	Troy
84 Davis, Buster	WR	6-1	210	10/02/1985	4	LSU
80 Floyd, Malcom	WR	6-5	225	09/08/1981	5	Wyoming
85 Gates, Antonio	TE	6-4	260	06/18/1980	8	Kent State
83 Jackson, Vincent	WR	6-5	230	01/14/1983	6	Northern Colorado
11 Naanee, Legedu	WR	6-2	220	09/16/1983	4	Boise State
88 Wilson, Kris	TE	6-2	245	08/22/1981	7	Pittsburgh

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
97 Bingham, Ryon	DT	6-3	303	06/06/1981	5	Nebraska
70 Boone, Alfonso	DE	6-3	304	01/11/1976	10	Mount San Antonio JC
93 Castillo, Luis	DE	6-3	290	08/04/1983	6	Northwestern
74 Cesaire, Jacques	DE	6-2	295	08/30/1980	8	Southern Connecticut State
71 Garay, Antonio	DT	6-4	303	11/30/1979	5	Boston College
96 Johnson, Travis	NT	6-3	311	04/26/1982	6	Florida State
72 Jones, Derrick	DE	6-4	315	11/14/1984	1	Grand Valley State
92 Martin, Vaughn	DE	6-4	320	04/18/1986	2	Western Ontario
91 Nwagbuo, Ogemdi	DT	6-4	303	12/24/1985	2	Michigan State
98 Scott, Ian	DT	6-3	315	11/08/1981	8	Florida

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20 Cason, Antoine	CB	6-0	190	07/09/1986	3	Arizona
25 Ellison, Kevin	S	6-1	221	01/08/1987	2	USC
28 Gregory, Steve	S	5-11	195	01/08/1983	5	Syracuse
36 Hughes, Brandon	CB	5-11	181	05/23/1986	1	Oregon State
24 Hughes, Dante	CB	5-10	190	08/21/1985	4	California
23 Jammer, Quentin	CB	6-0	204	06/19/1979	9	Texas
27 Oliver, Paul	S	5-10	210	03/30/1984	4	Georgia
41 Spillman, C.J.	S	6-0	196	05/06/1986	2	Marshall
30 Strickland, Donald	CB	5-10	185	11/24/1980	8	Colorado
31 Vasher, Nathan	CB	5-10	187	11/17/1981	7	Texas
32 Weddle, Eric	S	5-11	200	01/04/1985	4	Utah

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
90 Applewhite, Antwan	LB	6-3	245	12/31/1985	3	San Diego State
46 Beckwith, Darry	LB	6-0	234	05/15/1987	1	LSU
99 Burnett, Kevin	LB	6-3	240	12/24/1982	6	Tennessee
54 Cooper, Stephen	LB	6-1	235	06/19/1979	8	Maine
52 English, Larry	LB	6-2	255	01/22/1986	2	Northern Illinois
53 Holt, James	LB	6-2	223	11/24/1986	2	Kansas
56 Merriman, Shawne	LB	6-4	265	05/25/1984	6	Maryland
95 Phillips, Shaun	LB	6-3	262	05/13/1981	7	Purdue
59 Siler, Brandon	LB	6-2	239	12/05/1985	4	Florida
94 Tucker, Jyles	LB	6-3	258	09/18/1983	4	Wake Forest

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Kaeding, Nate	K	6-0	187	03/26/1982	7	Iowa
5 Scifres, Mike	P	6-2	221	10/08/1980	8	Western Illinois
9 Novak, Nick	K	6-0	198	8/21/81	4	Maryland

» NORV TURNER, *Head coach*
Clarence Shelmon, offensive coordinator; **Ron Rivera,** defensive coordinator; **Steve Crosby,** special teams coordinator; **Hal Hunter,** co-offensive line; **Mike Sullivan,** co-offensive line; **Ollie Wilson,** running backs; **Rob Chudzinkski,** assistant head coach/tight ends; **Charlie Joiner,** wide receivers; **John Ramsdell,** quarterbacks; **Steven Wilks,** secondary; **Cris Dishman,** secondary assistant; **John Pagano,** linebackers; **Don Johnson,** defensive line; **Greg Williams,** linebackers assistant

San Diego brought in veterans Donald Strickland and Nathan Vasher—two players previously hindered by injury who will compete for time at nickel and as backups for Jammer and Cason.

Steve Gregory will likely move from nickel, where he played the final 11 games of '09, back to strong safety. Darrell Stuckey, a 2010 fourth-round pick, could beat out Gregory and Kevin Ellison.

Eric Weddle begins his third season as the starting free safety. After a rough start to 2009, he showed his football knowledge, though the Chargers are still waiting for the kind of game-changing plays he made at Utah. **GRADE: C+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

If there is one player who personifies the Chargers in 2010, it's Nate Kaeding. No one will care if he goes 40-for-40 in the regular season. It is all about the postseason, where he has struggled. Kaeding, the most accurate kicker in regular-season NFL history (87.2 percent), is just eight-for-15 in eight playoff games.

Punter Mike Scifres' 44.6-yard net average is fifth best in the league over the past four seasons. Of his 253 punts during that span, 113 have been downed inside the 20-yard line, the best of any NFL punter.

Both kickers work with one of the game's most enduring long snappers. David Binn holds the franchise record for games played (255) and is entering his 17th season.

Sproles returns both kicks and punts, and while he remains among the league's most dynamic and dangerous runners, 2009 had to be considered a down year in the return game, as he averaged just seven yards on punt returns and 24.1 yards on kickoffs. **GRADE: A-**

BOTTOM LINE

There is little reason to believe San Diego can't follow the Indianapolis Colts' path to a Super Bowl victory—as in, just keep getting to the postseason and eventually win. But the Chargers can no longer be considered the most talented team in the NFL, as they have more roster holes than in the past.

However, the team still has several core players (including a franchise quarterback) in their prime and a number of young players who got experience in 2009 due to the rash of injuries the team suffered. It may be imprudent to continue to give this group the benefit of the doubt, but it is hardly a stretch to predict the Chargers have a shot at going deep into the postseason.

INSIDE THE HEADSET

NORV TURNER

Turner rarely surprises, though he did take some risks in 2009. Sometimes those risks paid off; sometimes they did not. Like all coaches, his choices sometimes cause consternation. But the cerebral Turner always has a reason for what he does, never claiming to have just had a feeling.

91

FINAL GRADE

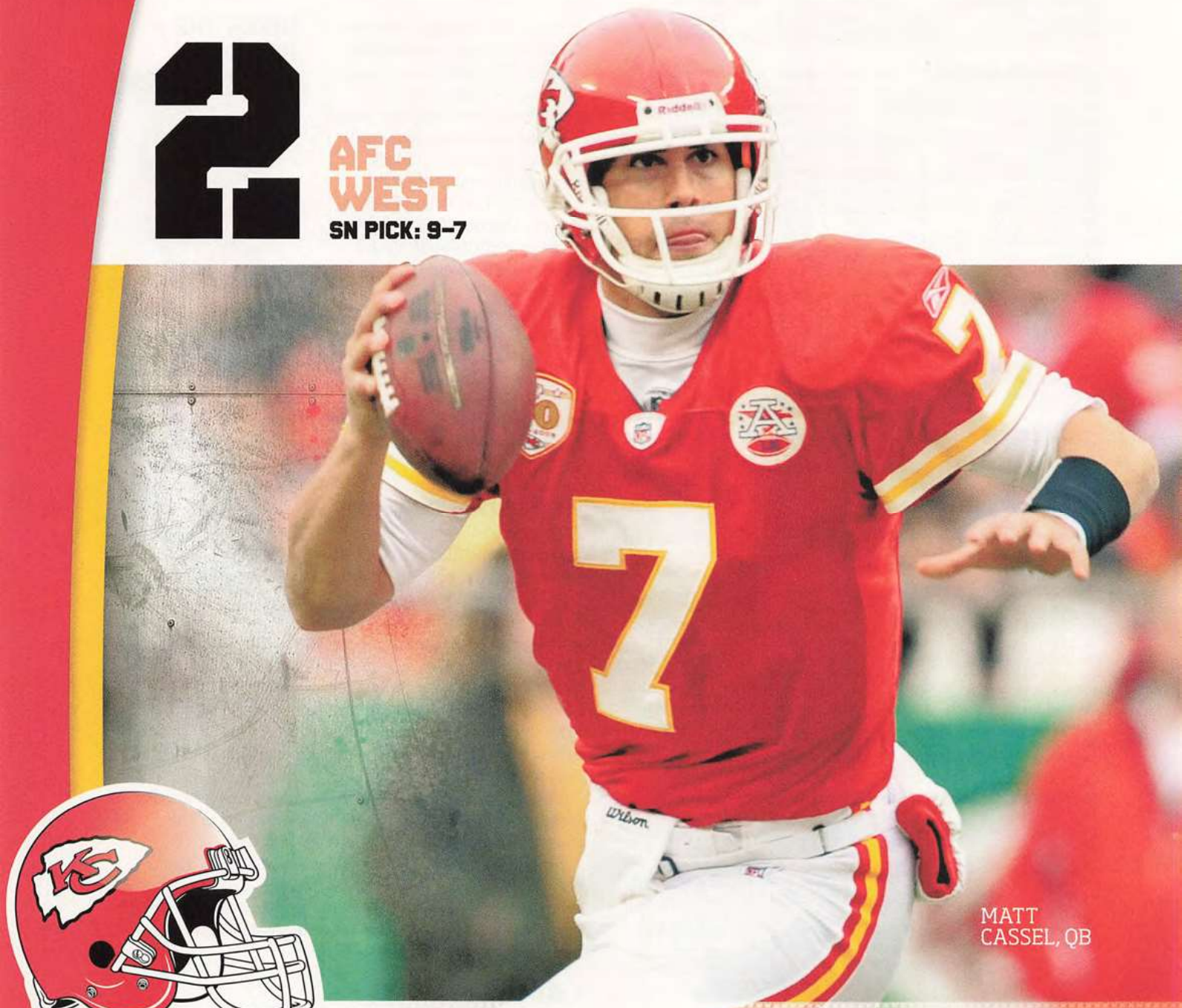
STEADY

STOCK REPORT

2

AFC WEST

SN PICK: 9-7



MATT CASSEL, QB

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Chiefs ready to rebound, but is the talent level there?

By Adam Teicher, *Kansas City Star*

After three seasons of deep slumber, Kansas City appears headed for an awakening in 2010.

The Chiefs aren't ready to be Super Bowl contenders, but the worst appears to be over for a franchise that has just 10 victories in the past three seasons. Certainly, they've run out of excuses if they're stuck again at the bottom of the AFC West when this season concludes.

Coach Todd Haley has had a season to learn the nuances of the job and institute his policies. With the hiring of new coordinators Charlie Weis and Romeo Crennel, he has veteran and trusted assistants running his offense and defense, respectively.

OFFENSE

Even though Weis is taking over the coordinator job from Haley, don't look for much to change. The Chiefs will take their shots down the field in the passing game, but they found an identity last year when Jamaal Charles emerged as the featured back. Kansas City will make use of both Charles and Thomas Jones out of the backfield in both the running and passing games.

Quarterbacks Matt Cassel's debut season in Kansas City was far from a success, but most of that was due to the Chiefs' inability to surround him with more effective players. Few quarterbacks would have flourished in such a bad situation.

The good news for the Chiefs is that they apparently didn't break Cassel. He survived a physical pounding and improved late in the season, leading the team to believe better days are ahead.

Last year's emergence of Charles, the hiring of Weis and the offseason addition of two veteran offensive linemen and a wide receiver change the picture for Cassel. The Chiefs should be better around him, so he will have to be improved as well. Last year's 55-percent completion rate needs a huge boost.

Brodie Croyle is a dependable backup. He has the ability to make all of the necessary throws and can step in and be effective if Cassel is out of the lineup for an extended period. A bigger question for Croyle is his durability. He was knocked out of the lineup with injuries numerous times during a previous stint as the starting quarterback. **GRADE: C-**

Running backs Charles rescued Kansas City's running game last season when he took over as the featured back. He had a spectacular second half, rushing for more than 900 yards and setting the stage for a potentially huge 2010 season.

However, the Chiefs seem to be less than convinced that Charles is for real. Their first move after the start of free agency was to sign Jones, who rushed for more than 1,400 yards last season with the Jets.

Though the Chiefs have declared the position open for competition, look for the two to share the spot in some manner. The speedy Charles is a game-breaker and big-play maker, qualities that will be in short supply for the Chiefs when he's on the bench. But Charles is only 200 pounds, suggesting he would have difficulty carrying a full load over an entire season. He's also had a problem with fumbling.

Jones is less of a big-play threat than Charles, but is dangerous in his own right. He's slightly larger and more compact, making him better equipped to pick up the tough yards between the tackles. Jones is also an accomplished

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

JERHEME URBAN — WR

Urban had trouble standing out with the Cardinals because Arizona was loaded with talent at wide receiver. That won't be a problem for him with the Chiefs. He will initially be a slot receiver, but could move into a more prominent role if Dwayne Bowe or Chris Chambers falters.

JOHN RIEGER / US PRESSWIRE

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

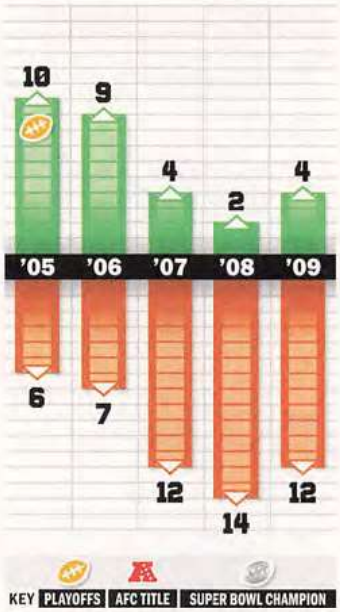
	OFFENSE
QB	Matt Cassel Brodie Croyle
FB	Mike Cox Tim Castille
RB	Jamaal Charles Thomas Jones
LT	Branden Albert Barry Richardson
LG	Brian Waters Jon Asamoah
C	Casey Wiegmann Rudy Niswanger
RG	Ryan Lilja Ikechuku Ndukwe
RT	Ryan O'Callaghan Barry Richardson
TE	Tony Moeaki Leonard Pope
WR	Chris Chambers Jerheme Urban
WR	Dwayne Bowe Dexter McCluster
	DEFENSE
DE	Tyson Jackson Alex Magee
DT	Ron Edwards Shaun Smith
DE	Glenn Dorsey Wallace Gilberry
OLB	Mike Vrabel Andy Studebaker
ILB	Derrick Johnson Corey Mays
ILB	Demorrio Williams Jovan Belcher
OLB	Tamba Hali Cameron Sheffield
LCB	Brandon Flowers Mike Richardson
SS	Jarrad Page Jon McGraw
FS	Eric Berry Kendrick Lewis
RCB	Brandon Carr Javier Arenas
	SPECIALISTS
K	Ryan Succop
P	Dustin Colquitt
KR	Dexter McCluster
PR	Javier Arenas
LS	Thomas Gafford

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 4-12 HOME: 1-7

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/chiefs
www.kcchiefs.com

STADIUM
Arrowhead Stadium
Capacity: 79,451 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 816-920-9400
Training Camp: Missouri Western University, St. Joseph, Mo.; 816-920-9300

5-YEAR RECORD: 29-51



KEY PLAYOFFS | AFC TITLE | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

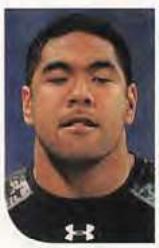
FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Adding Thomas Jones and Dexter McCluster threatens to curtail Jamaal Charles' fantasy impact. Charles is no longer a safe pick in the late first round or early second.

BUY
Dwayne Bowe
WR

SELL
Thomas Jones
RB



SLEEPER
Tony Moeaki
TE

pass receiver and blocker, so he doesn't have to come out of the game in obvious passing situations.

The Chiefs use a fullback infrequently. Mike Cox and Tim Castille are mainly used as blockers. **GRADE: A-**

Receivers ▸▸ The fact that midseason waiver acquisition Chris Chambers became the Chiefs' best and most reliable pass catcher last year says it all regarding the team's receiver situation. Most of Kansas City's other receivers had trouble shaking coverage and when they did, it was a struggle to catch the ball.

Chambers quickly emerged as Cassel's go-to receiver. He showed the speed to be an effective deep threat but also made plenty of big plays in the shorter passing game. The Chiefs re-signed Chambers (who will be 32 when the season begins) during the offseason and can only hope his skills haven't eroded. If they have, the team will be in trouble.

Dwayne Bowe had another inconsistent season, as he dropped numerous passes and contributed few big plays. He will get another chance this season, but the Chiefs may decide to move on without him next year if his play doesn't improve.

The Chiefs drafted tight end Tony Moeaki and slot receiver Dexter McCluster and signed veteran Jerheme Urban to help the passing game. Moeaki has good receiving skills and can provide the reliable target the Chiefs lacked at tight end last year. McCluster is fast and could provide matchup problems for opposing defenses, while Urban is a big target with reliable hands. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▸ Kansas City's line play improved late in the season when sacks went down and yards per rushing attempt went up, but the team still found it necessary to bolster the interior positions. The Chiefs signed two veterans: guard Ryan Lilja, who will likely start on the right side, and center Casey Wiegmann, who will battle incumbent Rudy Niswanger for the starting spot.

Lilja will join Brian Waters to give the Chiefs a strong pair of guards. Kansas City needs improvement from its tackles, particularly Branden Albert on the left side. Albert was one of the league leaders last season in sacks allowed. Ryan O'Callaghan helped stabilize the line after he became a starter at right tackle last season.

Depth on the line remains a question mark. Either Niswanger or Wiegmann will provide experience off the bench at center but the Chiefs need young players such as tackle Barry Richardson to develop

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	303.2	25
RUSHING	120.6	11
PASSING	182.6	25
SCORING	294	23
PUNT RETURNS	6.5	27
KICK RETURNS	21.6	25
RED ZONE TD %	47.4	25
TOTAL DEFENSE	388.2	30
AGAINST RUSH	156.5	31
AGAINST PASS	231.7	22
POINTS ALLOWED	424	29
INTERCEPTIONS	15	16t
SACKS	22	31
TURNOVER DIFF.	1	16t

CHIEFS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Derrick Thomas** *(1989-99)* — 126.5
2. **Neil Smith** *(1988-96)* — 85.5
3. **Eric Hicks** *(1998-2006)* — 44.5

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Chiefs)*

"Todd Haley had some problems as a rookie head coach last year but the coaching moves in hiring Charlie Weis as offensive coordinator and Romeo Crennel as defensive coordinator will help. That should stabilize things for Haley and let him concentrate on being a head coach. Their offense showed signs of life at the end of last year and while they didn't add any superstars to the mix, I like some of the things they did there. ...

"Adding Thomas Jones to their backfield gives them the ability to do a lot of different things. Jerheme Urban gives them a receiver who will at least catch the ball. Ryan Lilja, if he's healthy, is a great addition on their line. He's tough and he's a winner. ...

They'll have to be a lot better with the ball because I don't think they did enough to improve their defense. They were way too easy to run the ball against, and I don't see how that's changed. Crennel will also have to figure out a way to get more pressure on the passer than they did last year."

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	24-38	at Baltimore Ravens
09/20	L	10-13	Oakland Raiders
09/27	L	14-34	at Philadelphia Eagles
10/04	L	16-27	New York Giants
10/11	L	20-26	Dallas Cowboys
10/18	W	14-6	at Washington Redskins
10/25	L	7-37	San Diego Chargers
11/08	L	21-24	at Jacksonville Jaguars
11/15	W	16-10	at Oakland Raiders
11/22	W	27-24	Pittsburgh Steelers
11/29	L	14-43	at San Diego Chargers
12/06	L	13-44	Denver Broncos
12/13	L	10-16	Buffalo Bills
12/20	L	34-41	Cleveland Browns
12/27	L	10-17	at Cincinnati Bengals
01/03	W	44-24	atDenver Broncos

WON 4, LOST 12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Charles	190	1120	5.9	76	7
Cassel	50	189	3.8	13	0
Castille	14	55	3.9	16	0
Savage	10	45	4.5	11	0
Lawrence	2	42	21.0	26	0
Smith	15	33	2.2	12	0
Battle	7	21	3.0	12	0
Wade	3	11	3.7	8	0
Williams	6	6	1.0	5	0
Cox	3	5	1.7	2	1
McGraw	1	4	4.0	4	0
Colquitt	1	0	0.0	0	0
Long	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
CHIEFS	**438**	**1929**	**4.4**	**76**	**8**
OPPONENTS	531	2504	4.7	78	18

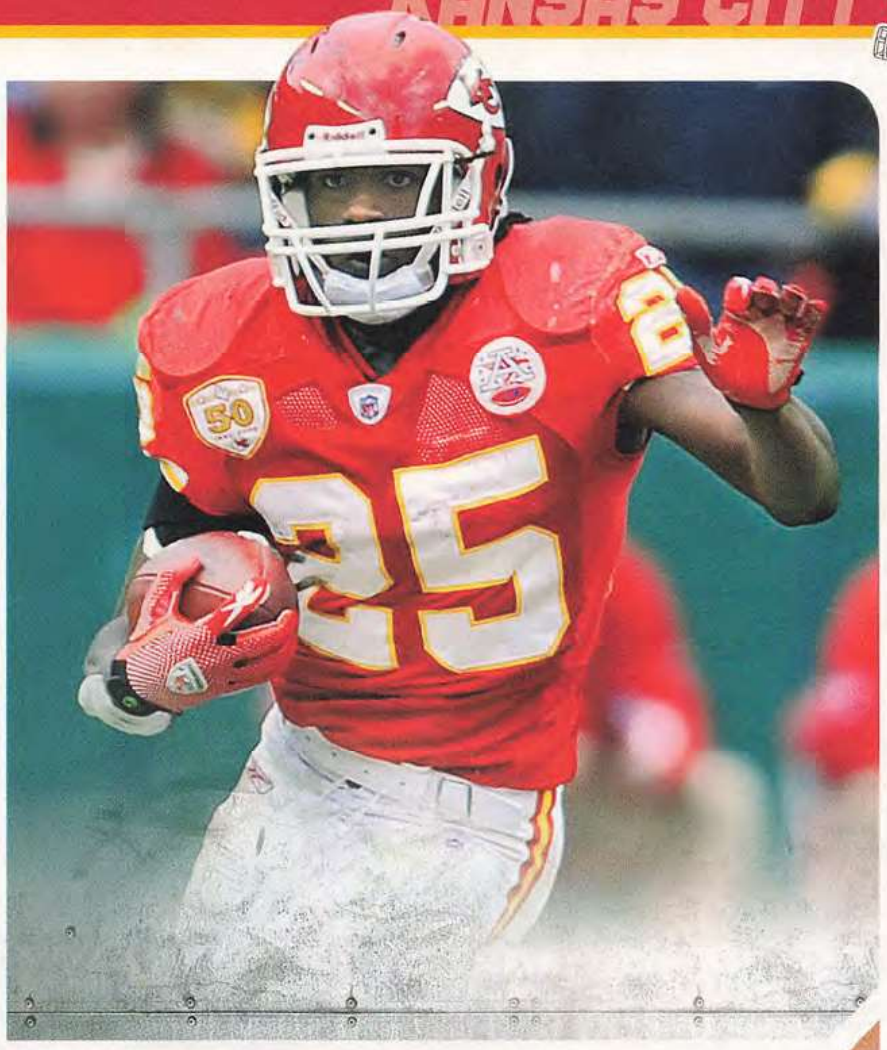
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bowe	47	589	12.5	41	4
Charles	40	297	7.4	49	1
Chambers	36	608	16.9	61	4
Wade	36	367	10.2	25	2
Long	20	178	8.9	30	0
Pope	20	174	8.7	29	1
Ryan	14	135	9.6	43	2
Cox	10	79	7.9	19	0
Cottam	9	120	13.3	26	0
Savage	7	51	7.3	12	0
Engram	5	61	12.2	18	0
Copper	4	68	17.0	50	0
Castille	4	37	9.3	20	1
Smith	2	9	4.5	5	0
O'Connell	2	7	3.5	4	0
Battle	2	-3	-1.5	3	0
Lawrence	1	9	9.0	9	0
Vrabel	1	1	1.0	1	1
CHIEFS	**296**	**2922**	**9.9**	**61**	**18**
OPPONENTS	302	3707	12.3	64	25

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Cassel	493	271	2924	16	16
Croyle	40	23	230	2	0
Gutierrez	1	1	3	0	0
Castille	1	0	0	0	1
CHIEFS	**536**	**296**	**2922**	**18**	**17**
OPPONENTS	509	302	3707	25	15

SACKS CHIEFS 22, OPPONENTS 45

Hali 8.5, Gilberry 4.5, Brown 2, Magee 2, Vrabel 2, Dorsey 1, Johnson 1, McGraw 1

JOY ABSALON / CSM



THE BOOK ON ... JAMAAL CHARLES

(how a rival sizes him up)

"He really opened up their offense once he took over for Larry Johnson last year. It's no coincidence they became a much more dangerous team at the end of the season. He's fast and so quick that the blockers didn't have to be perfect or hold their blocks as long as they did when Johnson was in their lineup. Just the smallest of creases was enough for him. ...

"He's also dangerous when (they) split him out wide like a receiver. Teams tried to get physical with him but he seemed to hold up pretty well. Still, I wonder how he would hold up for an entire season, so I think the signing of Thomas Jones was a good move. He had the tendency to put the ball on the ground and I don't know whether that's all out of his system yet. I guess we'll find out."

quickly. **GRADE: D+**

DEFENSE

The Chiefs began their move to the 3-4 system last year, so they have already suffered through many of the growing pains. The shift to Crennel as defensive coordinator shouldn't have much of an impact. He will tailor the game plan each week for the specific opponent more than most coordinators, so the Chiefs could have a different look from week to week.

Defensive line The Chiefs have plenty invested in this unit, particularly starting ends Glenn Dorsey and Tyson Jackson. They received little in return from these two players, both of whom are recent top-five draft picks. They made no effort to replace either player, which indicates the team believes they will begin playing up to expectations.

Reserve end Wallace Gilberry has considerable skills rushing the quarterback and will get some snaps in

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 San Diego
SEPT. 13 | 10:15
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 2 @ Cleveland
SEPT. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 3 San Francisco
SEPT. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 4 OPEN DATE

WEEK 5 @ Indianapolis
OCT. 10 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 6 @ Houston
OCT. 17 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 7 Jacksonville
OCT. 24 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 8 Buffalo
OCT. 31 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 9 @ Oakland
NOV. 7 | 4:15
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 10 @ Denver
NOV. 14 | 4:05
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 11 Arizona
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 12 @ Seattle
NOV. 28 | 4:05
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 13 Denver
DEC. 5 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 14 @ San Diego
DEC. 12 | 4:15
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 15 @ St. Louis
DEC. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 16 Tennessee
DEC. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

WEEK 17 Oakland
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— SCORE — (W) (L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

obvious passing situations. He was second on the team with 4.5 sacks in 2009 and that number could increase if the Chiefs can get him more help.

Nose tackle Ron Edwards was inconsistent last year as a run stuffer, and Shaun Smith was signed as his backup. Smith has had an up-and-down NFL career but most of his production came when he played for Cleveland under Crennel. **GRADE: D**

Linebackers ▸▸ Tamba Hali and Mike Vrabel formed a productive pair of outside linebackers last season, but the Chiefs need improvement from both. Hali led the Chiefs with 8.5 sacks. While Vrabel had just two. The Chiefs would like both players to increase their total to double digits.

Derrick Johnson remains the team's most talented inside linebacker, but his inconsistency led the Chiefs to bench him in regular down and distance situations last year. Playing mostly on passing downs, Johnson delivered several big plays. He will be given the chance to win a starting job during training camp.

Demorrio Williams and Corey Mays were the starting inside linebackers last season, but both are probably best as backups. That's what the Chiefs had in store for them in 2009, but they were pushed into the lineup due to injuries and Johnson's inconsistent play. **GRADE: C-**

Secondary ▸▸ The Chiefs selected Eric Berry with their top draft pick and will install him at free safety in hopes he can be the playmaker they've lacked in the deep middle of their defense. Berry is a versatile player

OFFSEASON MOVES

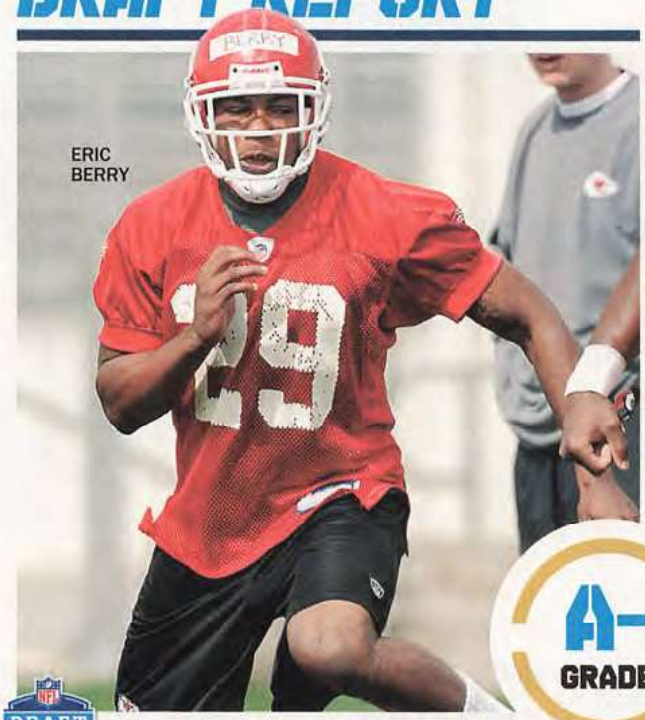
ADDITIONS

RB Thomas Jones *(FA/Jets)*, **C Casey Wiegmann** *(FA/Broncos)*, **G Ryan Lilja** *(FA/Colts)*, **WR Jerheme Urban** *(FA/Cardinals)*

SUBTRACTIONS

C Wade Smith *(FA/Texans)*, **G Mike Goff** *(FA)*, **WR Devard Darling** *(FA)*, **WR Bobby Wade** *(FA/Redskins)*, **G Andy Alleman** *(FA/Colts)*

DRAFT REPORT



JOHN RIEGER / US PRESSWIRE

A-
GRADE

The Chiefs had an outstanding draft, but their first-round pick is concerning. While safety **Eric Berry** is an excellent athlete with rare intangibles, he is raw and wildly inconsistent when making tackles. However, their second-round pick was sound, as running back **Dexter McCluster** is an explosive playmaker who will line up as a slot wide receiver, third-down back and return man as a rookie. The Chiefs also helped with future field-position battles by grabbing cornerback **Javier Arenas**, another second-round pick.

The third round yielded two excellent players in offensive guard **Jon Asamoah** and tight end **Tony Moeaki**. Asamoah has the tools to become a starter in a season or two, while Moeaki is a good all-around blocker who will also start in time.

Safety **Kendrick Lewis** and defensive end **Cameron Sheffield** were solid picks in the fifth round, though neither shined at the NFL Combine. Lewis botched his 40-yard dash time but showed the speed necessary in college to be a starter in the NFL. Sheffield is athletic but undersized and should make a good rushing linebacker in a 3-4 defense.

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	5	Eric Berry	S	6-0	211	Tennessee
2	4	Dexter McCluster	WR	5-9	172	Ole Miss
2	18	Javier Arenas	CB	5-9	197	Alabama
3	4	Jon Asamoah	G	6-4	308	Illinois
3	29	Tony Moeaki	TE	6-3	245	Iowa
5	5	Kendrick Lewis	S	6-0	198	Ole Miss
5	11	Cameron Sheffield	LB	6-3	257	Troy

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Cassel, Matt	QB	6-4	230	05/17/1982	6	USC
12 Croyle, Brodie	QB	6-2	206	02/06/1983	5	Alabama
15 Gutierrez, Matt	QB	6-4	230	06/09/1984	4	Idaho State
4 Palko, Tyler	QB	6-1	215	08/09/1983	3	Pittsburgh

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
76 Albert, Branden	T	6-5	315	11/04/1984	3	Virginia
61 Brown, Colin	G	6-8	325	08/29/1985	1	Missouri
43 Gafford, Thomas	C	6-2	235	01/29/1983	3	Houston
66 Harris, Darryl	G	6-3	300	01/14/1985	1	Ole Miss
65 Lilja, Ryan	G	6-2	290	10/15/1981	7	Kansas State
60 Ndukwe, Ikechuku	T	6-4	325	07/17/1982	4	Northwestern
64 Niswanger, Rudy	C	6-5	301	11/09/1982	5	LSU
75 O'Callaghan, Ryan	T	6-7	330	07/19/1983	5	California
77 Porter, Jermail	T	6-5	310	05/24/1986	1	Kent State
67 Richardson, Barry	T	6-6	320	05/15/1986	3	Clemson
54 Waters, Brian	G	6-3	320	02/18/1977	11	North Texas
62 Wiegmann, Casey	C	6-2	285	07/20/1973	15	Iowa

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
26 Battle, Jackie	RB	6-2	238	10/01/1983	3	Houston
46 Castille, Tim	RB	5-11	238	05/29/1984	4	Alabama
25 Charles, Jamaal	RB	5-11	199	12/27/1986	3	Texas
42 Cox, Mike	RB	6-0	250	07/11/1985	3	Georgia Tech
20 Jones, Thomas	RB	5-10	212	08/19/1978	11	Virginia
32 Moore, Kestahn	RB	5-10	207	04/13/1987	1	Florida
21 Smith, Kolby	RB	5-11	218	12/15/1984	4	Louisville
40 Williams, Javarris	RB	5-11	215	04/08/1986	1	Tennessee State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
82 Bowe, Dwayne	WR	6-2	221	09/21/1984	4	LSU
11 Chambers, Chris	WR	5-11	210	08/12/1978	10	Wisconsin
10 Copper, Terrance	WR	6-0	207	03/12/1982	7	East Carolina
87 Cottam, Brad	TE	6-9	270	11/28/1984	3	Tennessee
14 Lawrence, Quinten	WR	6-1	180	09/21/1984	2	McNeese State
17 Long, Lance	WR	5-11	186	05/04/1985	2	Mississippi State
85 O'Connell, Jake	TE	6-4	255	11/06/1985	2	Miami (OH)
45 Pope, Leonard	TE	6-8	264	09/10/1983	5	Georgia
83 Urban, Jerheme	WR	6-3	207	11/26/1980	7	Trinity (TX)
18 Williams, Chandler	WR	5-11	178	08/09/1985	1	Florida International

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
72 Dorsey, Glenn	DE	6-1	297	08/01/1985	3	LSU
95 Edwards, Ron	DT	6-3	315	07/12/1979	10	Texas A&M
70 Gales, Dion	DE	6-6	290	08/17/1985	1	Troy
92 Gilberry, Wallace	DE	6-2	268	12/05/1984	3	Alabama
65 Greenwood, Bobby	DE	6-5	267	03/02/1987	1	Alabama
94 Jackson, Tyson	DE	6-4	295	06/06/1986	2	LSU
69 Lokey, Derek	DT	6-2	280	11/25/1985	2	Texas
71 Magee, Alex	DE	6-4	295	04/28/1987	2	Purdue
96 Smith, Shaun	DT	6-2	325	08/19/1981	7	South Carolina

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
22 Bates, Jackie	CB	5-10	180	10/12/1986	1	Hampton
39 Carr, Brandon	CB	6-0	206	05/19/1986	3	Grand Valley State
34 Daniels, Travis	CB	6-1	195	09/08/1982	6	LSU
24 Flowers, Brandon	CB	5-9	187	02/18/1986	3	Virginia Tech
48 Langford, Reshard	S	6-1	213	02/06/1986	1	Vanderbilt
31 Leggett, Maurice	CB	5-11	188	10/02/1986	3	Valdosta State
47 McGraw, Jon	S	6-3	206	04/02/1979	9	Kansas State
38 Morgan, DaJuan	S	6-0	200	10/21/1985	3	N.C. State
44 Page, Jarrad	S	6-0	225	10/19/1984	5	UCLA
35 Price, Ricky	S	6-1	195	09/16/1987	1	Oklahoma State
23 Richardson, Mike	CB	5-11	190	02/18/1984	4	Notre Dame
20 Washington, Donald	CB	6-0	194	07/28/1986	2	Ohio State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59 Belcher, Jovan	LB	6-2	228	07/24/1987	2	Maine
91 Hali, Tamba	LB	6-3	275	11/03/1983	5	Penn State
52 Herron, David	LB	6-1	239	06/17/1984	3	Michigan State
56 Johnson, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	11/22/1982	6	Texas
51 Mays, Corey	LB	6-1	245	11/27/1983	5	Notre Dame
96 Studebaker, Andy	LB	6-3	248	09/16/1985	3	Wheaton (IL)
50 Vrabel, Mike	LB	6-4	261	08/14/1975	14	Ohio State
97 Walters, Pierre	LB	6-5	269	03/25/1986	2	Eastern Illinois
53 Williams, Demorrio	LB	6-1	232	07/06/1980	7	Nebraska

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Colquitt, Dustin	P	6-3	210	05/06/1982	6	Tennessee
6 Succop, Ryan	K	6-2	218	09/19/1986	2	South Carolina

» TODD HALEY, *Head coach*
Charlie Weis, offensive coordinator; **Romeo Crennel,** defensive coordinator; **Steve Hoffman,** special teams coordinator; **Bill Muir,** offensive line; **Pat Perles,** offensive line assistant; **Bernie Parmalee,** tight ends; **Richie Anderson,** wide receivers; **Emmitt Thomas,** secondary; **Gary Gibbs,** linebackers; **Adam Zimmer,** linebackers assistant; **Anthony Pleasant,** defensive line; **Maurice Carthon,** assistant head coach

who has good coverage and ball skills and also a big hitter.

Jarrad Page returns as the strong safety after missing most of last season with a calf injury. Page has shown big-play ability but must be more consistent if he is to become a solid player.

Brandon Flowers has the ability to make the leap and become one of the league's top cornerbacks. He had a solid season last year despite playing with an injured shoulder throughout. To make the transition, Flowers must make the big plays when they come his way. He dropped some possible interceptions last year. The other corner, Brandon Carr, was drafted when the Chiefs played mostly cover 2. He struggles at times in man coverage but has the ability to be a solid NFL player. Kansas City drafted Javier Arenas in the second round to challenge for playing time at nickel back. **GRADE: B**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

TODD HALEY

His first year as a head coach was a learning experience for Haley. He made several bizarre game decisions that either did cost or could have wound up costing the Chiefs. With trusted coordinators in Charlie Weis and Romeo Crennel on his staff, look for Haley to settle into a more traditional decision-making pattern.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Chiefs improved on special teams last season by putting a great emphasis on the kicking game. They have one of the league's better tandems in punter Dustin Colquitt and kicker Ryan Succop. Colquitt's kicks are relatively easy to cover because of their height but he needs to become more consistent. Succop was a standout as a rookie, making 86.2 percent of his field goal attempts.

Between Arenas and McCluster, the Chiefs may have found the solution to their longstanding need for kickoff and punt return specialists. Arenas excelled as a returner in college while McCluster has the ability to be a dangerous return man as well. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

While Kansas City is at least another year away from being serious playoff contenders, this should be a season where major progress is made toward that goal. While they are still counting on a large number of developing players, the Chiefs added enough veterans to suggest they are no longer in a true rebuilding phase.

Rather than using the playoffs or any specific win total as a gauge of that progress, a better test might be improvement as the season goes along. If the Chiefs are a better team in December than September and look ready to challenge for the AFC West title in 2011, this should be judged as a successful year.

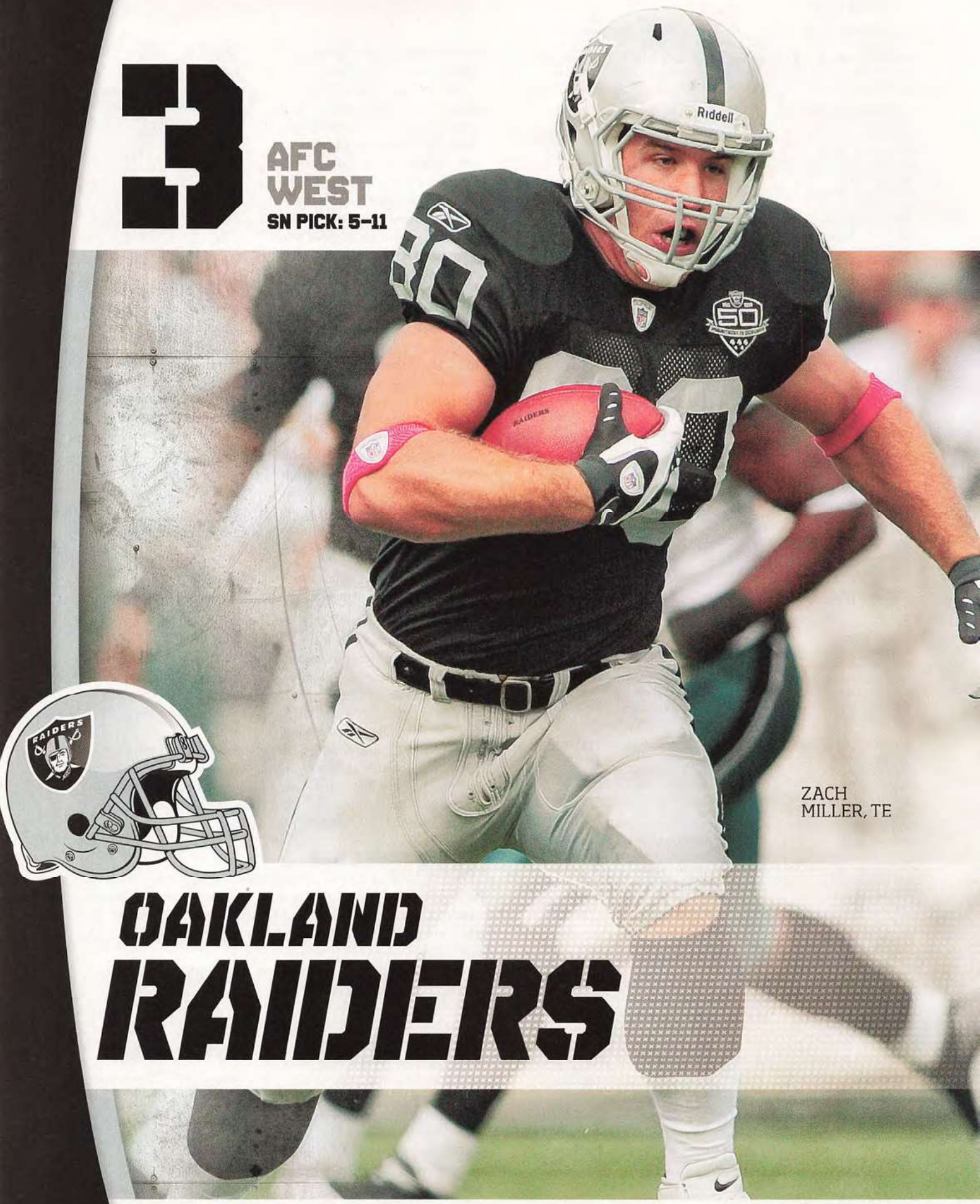
85
FINAL GRADE

UP
STOCK REPORT

3

AFC WEST

SN PICK: 5-11



ZACH MILLER, TE

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Can Campbell lead Raiders back to respectability?

By Steve Corkran, *Oakland Tribune*

Coach Tom Cable is fond of saying he and his team can see the mountaintop and that the Raiders are on the verge of cresting the summit.

After seven years of scaling that proverbial mountain, it's enough to make one wonder if the mountain keeps growing as the Raiders progress toward their goal of getting back to the Super Bowl.

"The next step is to be a playoff team," Cable says. "We have changed the attitude. We've cleaned up the locker room. We're all pulling for each other in the same direction now and we've become very competitive. OK? That's all we've done.

"We're losing games that we shouldn't. We've got to win a little more on the road; we've got to win more period. Those things, if that's what you accomplish next, then you become a playoff team. That's the goal, period. It has to be that way now."

And then there was the question of the Raiders' chances of scaling that mountain as long as quarterback JaMarcus Russell was leading the expedition. Oakland put an end to the Russell experiment as it traded for former Washington starter Jason Campbell during draft weekend and then released the 2007 No. 1 overall draft pick two weeks later.

If the Raiders are to win more than five games for the first time since their Super Bowl appearance eight years ago, it's going to be with many of the same players who played key roles in their 5-11 season in 2009.

OFFENSE

First-year offensive coordinator Hue Jackson favors a balanced attack, with his quarterback asked to protect the ball, scramble when necessary and take occasional shots downfield. That meshes well with Cable's offensive philosophy, which he used as the primary play-caller most of the past two seasons.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ The Raiders entered last season with Russell as their unquestioned starter. But by midseason, it became apparent to Cable that Russell wasn't ready for the hefty responsibility. As a result, he benched Russell and turned over the job to journeymen Bruce Gradkowski and Charlie Frye for the final seven games. Russell's release now paves the way for Campbell to be the unquestioned starter in Oakland.

Jackson has a good feel for Campbell, and they are working every day to get up to speed with the offense. Jackson is credited with the rapid development of Carson Palmer and Joe Flacco in previous college and pro stints.

The Raiders addressed their most glaring need and are hopeful Campbell provides an upgrade over the three players used as starters last season. Campbell is far more accurate than Russell, more mobile and has more experience. If all goes well, the Raiders won't see much of Gradkowski and Frye, who are two experienced backups.

GRADE: C+

Running backs ▸▸ Justin Fargas was released in the offseason, so Darren McFadden and Michael Bush no longer have someone standing between them and featured roles. Cable is hopeful that either McFadden or Bush will emerge as a clear-cut lead back, with the other serving as a change-of-pace runner. McFadden has been hampered by injuries in his short NFL career, but is being counted on to shoulder a workload that dwarfs what he received the past two seasons. The knock on McFadden is that he doesn't break many tackles and isn't durable enough to run between the tackles on a consistent basis.

Conversely, those are Bush's main

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

CHAZ SCHILENS — WR

Schilens caught only 44 passes in his first two seasons. However, he has been hurt for most of that time and has yet to settle into a groove. Schilens has the size, speed, hands and work ethic that make him a prime candidate to mature into a legitimate No. 1 receiver and consistent playmaker.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Jason Campbell Bruce Gradkowski
FB	Oren O'Neal Luke Lawton
RB	Darren McFadden Michael Bush
LT	Mario Henderson Khalif Barnes
LG	Robert Gallery Langston Walker
C	Samson Satele Chris Morris
RG	Cooper Carlisle Erik Pears
RT	Khalif Barnes Langston Walker
TE	Zach Miller Brandon Myers
WR	Chaz Schilens Louis Murphy
WR	Darrius Heyward-Bey Johnnie Lee Higgins
	DEFENSE
DE	Matt Shaughnessy Trevor Scott
DT	Tommy Kelly Chris Cooper
DT	Desmond Bryant William Joseph
DE	Richard Seymour Jay Richardson
SLB	Kamerion Wimbley Ricky Brown
MLB	Rolando McClain Slade Norris
WLB	Thomas Howard David Nixon
LCB	Chris Johnson Stanford Routt
SS	Tyvon Branch Mike Mitchell
FS	Michael Huff Hiram Eugene
RCB	Nnamdi Asomugha Stanford Routt
	SPECIALISTS
K	Sebastian Janikowski
P	Shane Lechler
KR	Jacoby Ford
PR	Jacoby Ford
LS	Jon Condo

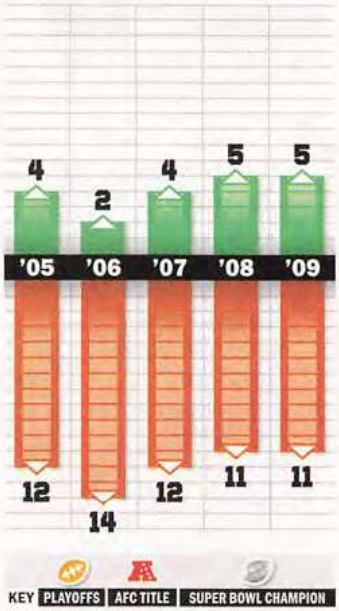
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 5-11 HOME: 2-6

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/raiders
www.raiders.com

STADIUM
Oakland Coliseum
Capacity: 63,122 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 800-RAIDERS
Training Camp: Napa Valley Training Camp, Napa, Calif.; 510-864-5000

KONSTANDINOS GOUMENIDIS / SOUTHCREEK GLOBAL MEDIA / NEWSCOM

5-YEAR RECORD: 28-68



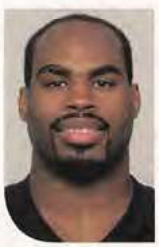
FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Jason Campbell will upgrade the Raiders' quarterback situation, and the fact he liked to throw to the tight ends in Washington should help Zach Miller's development.

BUY
Zach Miller
TE

SELL
Justin Fargas
RB



SLEEPER
Michael Bush
RB

strengths. Both will get long looks during training camp to make a case for being the primary back. Given the Raiders used the No. 4 pick in the 2008 draft and more than $25 million to sign him bodes well for McFadden getting the job as long as he keeps the competition close.

Oren O'Neal and Luke Lawton are effective blockers who relish their roles. This unit is one of Oakland's strengths entering the season. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸▸ Louis Murphy led the Raiders' wide receivers in receptions, yards and touchdowns last season. His 34 receptions for 521 yards and four touchdowns were impressive numbers for a rookie, but they're also indicative of a lack of star power among the group. The Raiders are hopeful that fellow second-year man Darrius Heyward-Bey, the No. 7 pick in the 2009 draft, can give Campbell another reliable target. Heyward-Bey had trouble with drops last season, with a few coming in key moments of games.

The other wideouts are promising third-year player Chaz Schilens and Johnnie Lee Higgins, but no one out of the group has shown the presence to be a legitimate No. 1 receiver.

Fortunately for the Raiders, they possess one of the game's better receiving tight ends in Zach Miller. He followed up a record-setting rookie campaign in 2008 with 66 receptions for 805 yards and three touchdowns last season. Miller is a Pro Bowl-caliber tight end who keeps getting better as he acclimates to the NFL. **GRADE: D+**

Offensive line ▸▸ Cable made a name for himself as an offensive line coach in college football and the NFL before succeeding Lane Kiffin as Raiders coach early in the 2008 season. That makes the inconsistent play of the Raiders' offensive line the past two seasons puzzling. To that end, Cable is hell-bent on improving the underachieving unit this season.

Right tackle Cornell Green left via free agency, clearing the way for Khalif Barnes to take over at that spot. Mario Henderson will get another shot at showing he deserves the starting spot at left tackle, which is far from certain.

The only surefire starters are left guard Robert Gallery and right guard Cooper Carlisle. Samson Satele rebounded from a slow start last season and appears anchored at center. Veterans Langston Walker, Chris Morris and Erik Pears give the Raiders adequate depth in case of injury or the

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	266.1	31
RUSHING	106.3	21
PASSING	159.8	29
SCORING	197	31
PUNT RETURNS	4.9	29
KICK RETURNS	18.2	32
RED ZONE TD %	41.4	29
TOTAL DEFENSE	361.9	26
AGAINST RUSH	155.5	29
AGAINST PASS	206.4	7
POINTS ALLOWED	379	23
INTERCEPTIONS	8	31t
SACKS	37	11t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-13	30t

RAIDERS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Greg Townsend** *(1983-93)* — 107.5
2. **Howie Long** *(1982-93)* — 84.0
3. **Anthony Smith** *(1991-97)* — 57.5

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Raiders)

"The Raiders are one of those teams that make you scratch your head because their record never seems to match their talent level. This is a team that is loaded with first-round draft picks—and high first-rounders at that—the best cornerback in the game, one of the more dominant defensive linemen in Richard Seymour, and as much team speed as any other team around. Their problems transcend JaMarcus Russell, but he deserves as much blame as anyone else for their inability to realize their potential because of the importance of that position. Now you see why Rich Gannon was so valuable when he was the quarterback. ...

"You never look forward to playing the Raiders because of their speed and size, but they almost always find a way to beat themselves of late, so that part is nice. They haven't done real well with their first-round draft picks the past several years. One of these years, they're going to hit a home run and that will make a big difference. ...

"The bottom line is, they're still Al Davis' Raiders, so you know you're in for a physical game against a team with a lot of speed and a desire to go for the big play."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/14	L	20-24	San Diego Chargers
09/20	W	13-10	at Kansas City Chiefs
09/27	L	3-23	Denver Broncos
10/04	L	6-29	at Houston Texans
10/11	L	7-44	at New York Giants
10/18	W	13-9	Philadelphia Eagles
10/25	L	0-38	New York Jets
11/01	L	16-24	at San Diego Chargers
11/15	L	10-16	Kansas City Chiefs
11/22	W	20-17	Cincinnati Bengals
11/26	L	7-24	at Dallas Cowboys
12/06	W	27-24	at Pittsburgh Steelers
12/13	L	13-34	Washington Redskins
12/20	W	20-19	at Denver Broncos
12/27	L	9-23	at Cleveland Browns
01/03	L	13-21	Baltimore Ravens

WON 5, LOST 11

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bush	123	589	4.8	60	3
Fargas	129	491	3.8	35	3
McFadden	104	357	3.4	28	1
Gradkowski	18	108	6.0	21	0
J. Russell	18	44	2.4	15	0
Frye	4	41	10.3	26	0
Murphy	6	31	5.2	13	0
Higgins	2	21	10.5	19	0
Heyward-Bey	2	19	9.5	20	0
O'Neal	1	0	0.0	0	0
G. Russell	3	0	0.0	2	0
RAIDERS	**410**	**1701**	**4.1**	**60**	**7**
OPPONENTS	548	2488	4.5	77	24

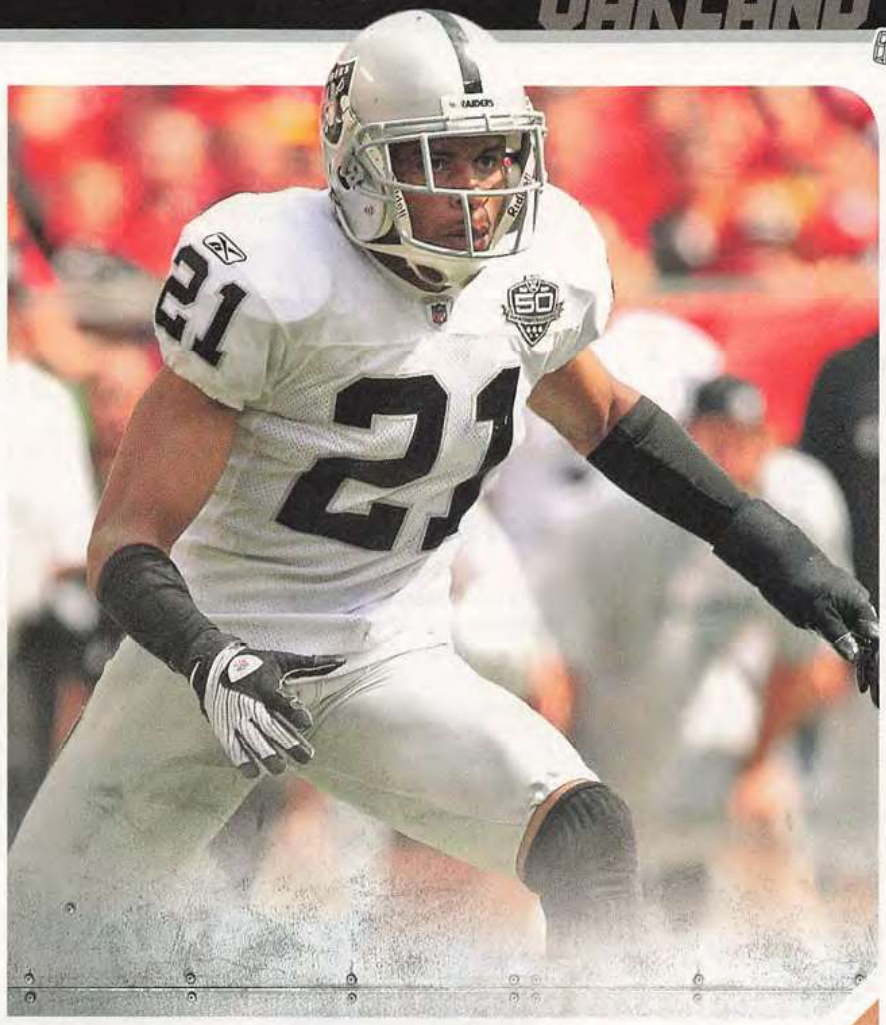
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Miller	66	805	12.2	86	3
Murphy	34	521	15.3	75	4
Schilens	29	365	12.6	25	2
McFadden	21	245	11.7	48	0
Higgins	19	263	13.8	33	0
Fargas	17	113	6.6	14	0
Bush	17	105	6.2	17	0
Russell	12	96	8.0	20	0
Stewart	10	78	7.8	19	0
Heyward-Bey	9	124	13.8	24	1
Watkins	8	90	11.3	28	0
Lawton	7	31	4.4	14	0
Myers	4	19	4.8	6	0
Reece	2	20	10.0	11	0
RAIDERS	**255**	**2557**	**10.0**	**86**	**10**
OPPONENTS	259	3303	12.8	63	16

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Russell	246	120	1287	3	11
Gradkowski	150	82	1007	6	3
Frye	87	53	581	1	4
Bush	1	0	0	0	0
Losman	1	0	0	0	0
RAIDERS	**485**	**255**	**2557**	**10**	**18**
OPPONENTS	438	259	3303	16	8

SACKS — RAIDERS 37, OPPONENTS 49

Ellis 7, Scott 7, Seymour 4, Shaughnessy 4, Richardson 3, Howard 2, Morrison 2, Warren 2, Mitchell 1.5, Branch 1, Kelly 1, Routt 1, Huff 0.5

RICH GABRIELSON / ICON SMI



THE BOOK ON ... NNAMDI ASOMUGHA

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha is a special player who comes along only every so often. He is that rare player who can shut down an opponent's top receiver, regardless of who it is, and makes his teammates better in the process. What separates him from other top corners such as Deion Sanders is that he is physical and doesn't shy away from sticking his nose in there against the run. ...

"Asomugha is tough to game-plan against because he studies his opponent so well and varies his technique. He also stands out because of his lankiness and ability to succeed against fast receivers, tall receivers and physical receivers. Every team looks for a player as talented as Asomugha, but few ever find one. He's the kind of player that you build a team around and do whatever it takes to keep him on your roster his entire career. ...

"The best part about him is that he's also a great person. It's not often that you can't find something negative to say about a player but that's the case with Asomugha. He's one of the best, no doubt, and he would be a household name if he played for a team that won more games than the Raiders have during his seven seasons."

need for a lineup change. Rookies Jared Veldheer and Bruce Campbell will get long looks and a chance to win starting jobs. **GRADE: C-**

DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator John Marshall adheres well to owner Al Davis' long preferred style of relying on a steady diet of man-to-man coverage with the cornerbacks and consistent pressure on the quarterback from the four defensive linemen. The linebackers and safeties are used for run support and pass coverage, with only occasional blitzing incorporated into the mix.

Defensive line ▸▸ Richard Seymour's arrival via trade in 2009 gave the Raiders the premier defensive lineman they lacked. It also took some of the

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Tennessee — SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 2 St. Louis — SEPT. 19 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 3 @ Arizona — SEPT. 26 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 4 Houston — OCT. 3 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 5 San Diego — OCT. 10 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 6 @ San Francisco — OCT. 17 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 7 @ Denver — OCT. 24 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 8 Seattle — OCT. 31 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 9 Kansas City — NOV. 7 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

»» WEEK 10 OPEN DATE

WEEK 11 @ Pittsburgh — NOV. 21 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 12 Miami — NOV. 28 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 13 @ San Diego — DEC. 5 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 14 @ Jacksonville — DEC. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 15 Denver — DEC. 19 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 16 Indianapolis — DEC. 26 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 17 @ Kansas City — JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

pressure off the other linemen to replace the loss of production by end Derrick Burgess, who was traded to the Patriots. Seymour responded with a solid first year in a role in which he played every position along the line.

The release of former starters in end Greg Ellis and tackle Gerard Warren this offseason cleared the way for youngsters such as Matt Shaughnessy, Trevor Scott, Jay Richardson and Desmond Bryant to get more playing time. All four showed promise last season and should help offset the loss of Ellis and Warren. Starting tackle Tommy Kelly hasn't lived up to the hefty contract he signed a few years ago, but is a dependable player who clogs the middle and pressures the quarterback on a consistent basis.

The Raiders struggled against the run last season, a result of inconsistency by the defensive line. The addition of run-stopping end Lamarr Houston via the draft should help address this area of concern. **GRADE: D+**

Linebackers »» The Raiders traded for outside linebacker Kamerion Wimbley in what qualifies as one of their few offseason acquisitions. Wimbley will be used at the strongside spot in hopes of solving the revolving-door policy in place the past several years. Rookie first-rounder Rolando McClain will supplant Kirk Morrison in the middle, while Trevor Scott will get a shot to unseat Thomas Howard at the weakside spot. Ricky Brown and Sam Williams give the Raiders experienced backups.

Wimbley provides an upgrade at the strong side based on his experience, production and versatility. The Raiders want more game-altering plays out of Thomas than they received last season and are counting on McClain to provide

OFFSEASON MOVES

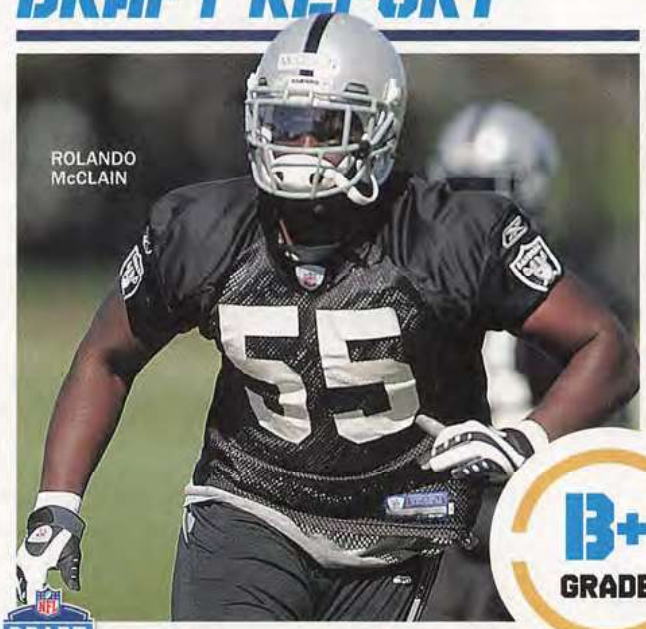
ADDITIONS

QB Jason Campbell *(trade/Redskins)*, **LB Kamerion Wimbley** *(trade/Browns)*, **QB Kyle Boller** *(FA/Rams)*, **DE Quentin Groves** *(trade/Jaguars)*, **RB Rock Cartwright** *(FA/Redskins)*, **TE John Owens** *(FA/Seahawks)*, **CB Joey Thomas** *(FA/Dolphins)*

SUBTRACTIONS

LB Kirk Morrison *(trade/Jaguars)*, **OT Cornell Green** *(FA/Bills)*, **DT Gerard Warren** *(FA/Patriots)*, **QB J.P. Losman** *(FA)*, **RB Justin Fargas** *(FA)*, **WR Javon Walker** *(FA)*, **DE Greg Ellis** *(FA)*, **QB JaMarcus Russell** *(FA)*

DRAFT REPORT



B+ GRADE

»» 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	8	Rolando McClain	LB	6-4	249	Alabama
2	12	Lamarr Houston	DT	6-3	305	Texas
3	5	Jared Veldheer	OT	6-8	312	Hillsdale
4	8	Bruce Campbell	OT	6-7	314	Maryland
4	10	Jacoby Ford	WR	5-9	186	Clemson
5	7	Walter McFadden	CB	5-10	181	Auburn
6	21	Travis Goethel	LB	6-3	240	Arizona State
7	8	Jeremy Ware	CB	5-10	184	Michigan State
7	44	Stevie Brown	S	5-11	212	Michigan

Linebacker **Rolando McClain** was a good pick by the Raiders in the first round, as he brings the toughness, intelligence and character the Oakland locker room has been desperately missing. McClain will upgrade the defense with his good attitude, but won't make any game-changing plays.

A possible starter in a few years, **Lamarr Houston** is an athletic defensive tackle who can anchor the point of attack. In the third and fourth rounds, the Raiders grabbed two offensive tackles with first-round athleticism. Small-college pick **Jared Veldheer** has the size to dominate, but **Bruce Campbell** needs to improve his consistency from game to game. **Jacoby Ford** was an excellent selection in the fourth round and will make an immediate impact as a return specialist and slot receiver.

The later rounds yielded the Raiders some unproven talent, including linebacker **Travis Goethel**, a tough and instinctive athlete who could be productive at the NFL level.

KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
12 Boller, Kyle	QB	6-3	220	06/17/1981	8	California
8 Campbell, Jason	QB	6-5	230	12/31/1981	6	Auburn
3 Frye, Charlie	QB	6-4	218	08/28/1981	6	Akron
5 Gradkowski, Bruce	QB	6-1	220	01/27/1983	5	Toledo

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
69 Barnes, Khalif	T	6-5	325	04/21/1982	6	Washington
66 Carlisle, Cooper	G	6-5	295	08/11/1977	11	Florida
76 Gallery, Robert	G	6-7	325	07/26/1980	7	Iowa
75 Henderson, Mario	T	6-7	300	10/29/1984	4	Florida State
51 Morris, Chris	C	6-4	305	02/02/1983	5	Michigan State
72 Pears, Erik	T	6-8	305	06/25/1982	5	Colorado State
63 Rodd, Brandon	G	6-4	305	11/01/1985	1	Arizona State
64 Satele, Samson	C	6-3	300	11/29/1984	4	Hawaii
70 Walker, Langston	T	6-8	365	09/03/1979	9	California

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
29 Bush, Michael	RB	6-1	245	06/16/1984	3	Louisville
25 Cartwright, Rock	RB	5-8	215	12/3/1979	9	Kansas State
44 Lawton, Luke	RB	6-0	240	08/26/1980	5	McNeese State
20 McFadden, Darren	RB	6-2	210	08/27/1987	3	Arkansas
46 O'Neal, Oren	RB	5-11	248	09/08/1983	3	Arkansas State
45 Reece, Marcel	RB	6-3	240	06/23/1985	2	Washington

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Bodiford, Shaun	WR	5-11	186	05/04/1982	3	Portland State
13 Figurs, Yamon	WR	5-11	175	01/10/1982	4	Kansas State
12 Heyward-Bey, Darrius	WR	6-2	210	02/26/1987	2	Maryland
15 Higgins, Johnnie Lee	WR	5-11	188	09/08/1983	4	UTEP
23 Holland, Jonathan	WR	6-1	195	02/18/1985	3	Louisiana Tech
16 Hubbard, Paul	WR	6-2	225	06/12/1985	1	Wisconsin
89 Miller, Nick	WR	5-9	175	03/29/1987	2	Southern Utah
80 Miller, Zach	TE	6-5	255	12/11/1985	4	Arizona State
18 Murphy, Louis	WR	6-3	205	05/11/1987	2	Florida
83 Myers, Brandon	TE	6-4	250	09/04/1985	2	Iowa
82 Owens, John	TE	6-3	255	01/10/80	9	Notre Dame
81 Schilens, Chaz	WR	6-4	225	11/07/1985	3	San Diego State
86 Stewart, Tony	TE	6-5	260	08/09/1979	10	Penn State
19 Watkins, Todd	WR	6-2	191	06/22/1983	3	Brigham Young

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
90 Bryant, Desmond	DT	6-5	260	12/15/1985	2	Harvard
78 Cooper, Chris	DT	6-5	280	12/27/1977	7	Nebraska-Omaha
97 Gunheim, Greyson	DE	6-5	265	04/08/1986	3	Washington
54 Groves, Quentin	DE	6-3	265	07/05/1984	3	Auburn
94 Joseph, William	DT	6-5	310	09/03/1979	8	Miami (FL)
93 Kelly, Tommy	DT	6-6	300	12/27/1980	7	Mississippi State
98 Richardson, Jay	DE	6-6	280	01/27/1984	4	Ohio State
91 Scott, Trevor	DE	6-5	258	08/30/1984	3	Buffalo
92 Seymour, Richard	DE	6-6	310	10/06/1979	10	Georgia
77 Shaughnessy, Matt	DE	6-6	253	09/23/1986	2	Wisconsin

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Asomugha, Nnamdi	CB	6-2	210	07/06/1981	8	California
30 Boyd, Jerome	S	6-2	225	05/26/1986	1	Oregon
33 Branch, Tyvon	S	6-0	205	12/11/1986	3	Connecticut
31 Eugene, Hiram	S	6-2	200	11/24/1980	5	Louisiana Tech
24 Huff, Michael	S	6-1	205	03/06/1983	5	Texas
37 Johnson, Chris	CB	6-1	200	09/25/1979	8	Louisville
34 Mitchell, Mike	S	6-1	220	06/10/1987	2	Ohio
26 Routt, Stanford	CB	6-1	195	07/26/1983	6	Houston
36 Thomas, Joey	CB	6-1	190	08/29/1980	5	Montana State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
57 Brown, Ricky	LB	6-2	235	12/27/1983	5	Boston College
59 Condo, Jon	LB	6-3	250	08/26/1981	4	Maryland
50 Ekejiuba, Isaiah	LB	6-4	240	10/05/1981	6	Virginia
53 Howard, Thomas	LB	6-3	240	07/14/1983	5	UTEP
56 Nixon, David	LB	6-3	225	03/16/1985	2	Brigham Young
58 Norris, Slade	LB	6-3	245	10/25/1985	1	Oregon State
Williams, Sam	LB	6-5	260	07/28/1980	8	Fresno State
95 Wimbley, Kamerion	LB	6-3	255	10/13/1983	5	Florida State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
11 Janikowski, Sebastian	K	6-2	250	03/02/1978	11	Florida State
9 Lechler, Shane	P	6-2	225	08/07/1976	11	Texas A&M
1 Waters, Swayze	K	5-11	180	05/18/1987	1	UAB

» TOM CABLE, *Head coach*
Hue Jackson, offensive coordinator; **John Marshall,** defensive coordinator; **John Fassel,** special teams coordinator; **Jim Michalczik,** offensive line; **Chris Morgan,** offensive line assistant; **Kelly Skipper,** running backs; **Adam Henry,** tight ends; **Sanjay Lal,** wide receivers; **Paul Hackett,** quarterbacks; **Lionel Washington,** secondary; **Willie Brown,** secondary assistant; **Mike Haluchak,** linebackers; **Mike Waufle,** defensive line

a huge boost against the run.
GRADE: C

Secondary Nnamdi Asomugha is as good as they come at cornerback. He has become so technically sound in recent seasons that teams rarely throw his way. That makes life easier on the 10 other defenders, as the Raiders are tougher to plan against.

Chris Johnson has developed into a solid complementary corner, while Stanford Routt is a dependable nickel back. Strong safety Tyvon Branch flourished last season in his first year as a full-time starter. Though he struggled at times, Branch also finished among the league leaders in tackles and made as many impact plays as any of his defensive mates. Michael Huff has a stranglehold on the free safety job after a breakout season last year.

There isn't much depth overall, but Oakland's secondary is not a glaring problem area. Still, the Raiders know that Asomugha, Routt and Huff are potential free agents after this season, so they are seeking players to bolster the secondary for now and beyond. Mike Mitchell and Hiram Eugene are solid backups pushing for starting spots and increased playing time. **GRADE: B-**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

TOM CABLE

Cable isn't afraid to buck convention and call for a trick play, go for a first down on fourth-and-short or throw the ball deep downfield. But first and foremost, Cable prefers an offense that relies on a strong running game, dominant offensive line and a quarterback who manages the game well.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Raiders are as set as any team in the league in terms of kicker, punter and long snapper, with Sebastian Janikowski, Shane Lechler and Jon Condo, respectively. Lechler and Condo made the Pro Bowl last year, while Janikowski has one of the strongest legs in the NFL.

The weak link is finding effective return specialists. The Raiders used eight players on kick returns last season, none of whom fared well. Drafting speedy return specialist Jacoby Ford should go a long way toward solving that problem. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

The Raiders remain a work-in-progress. The belief is that they are on the cusp of turning the corner, which seems possible with the trade for Campbell. However, McFadden and others need to mature into the kind of players they were projected to be out of college before Oakland can get over the hump. That's a lot to ask when there hasn't been ample evidence of those players doing so during the first few years of their NFL careers.

Trading for Campbell qualifies as the Raiders' lone splashy move during the offseason. The AFC West remains the domain of the San Diego Chargers until further notice, and the Raiders are stuck in a group of three teams fighting for second place, at best.

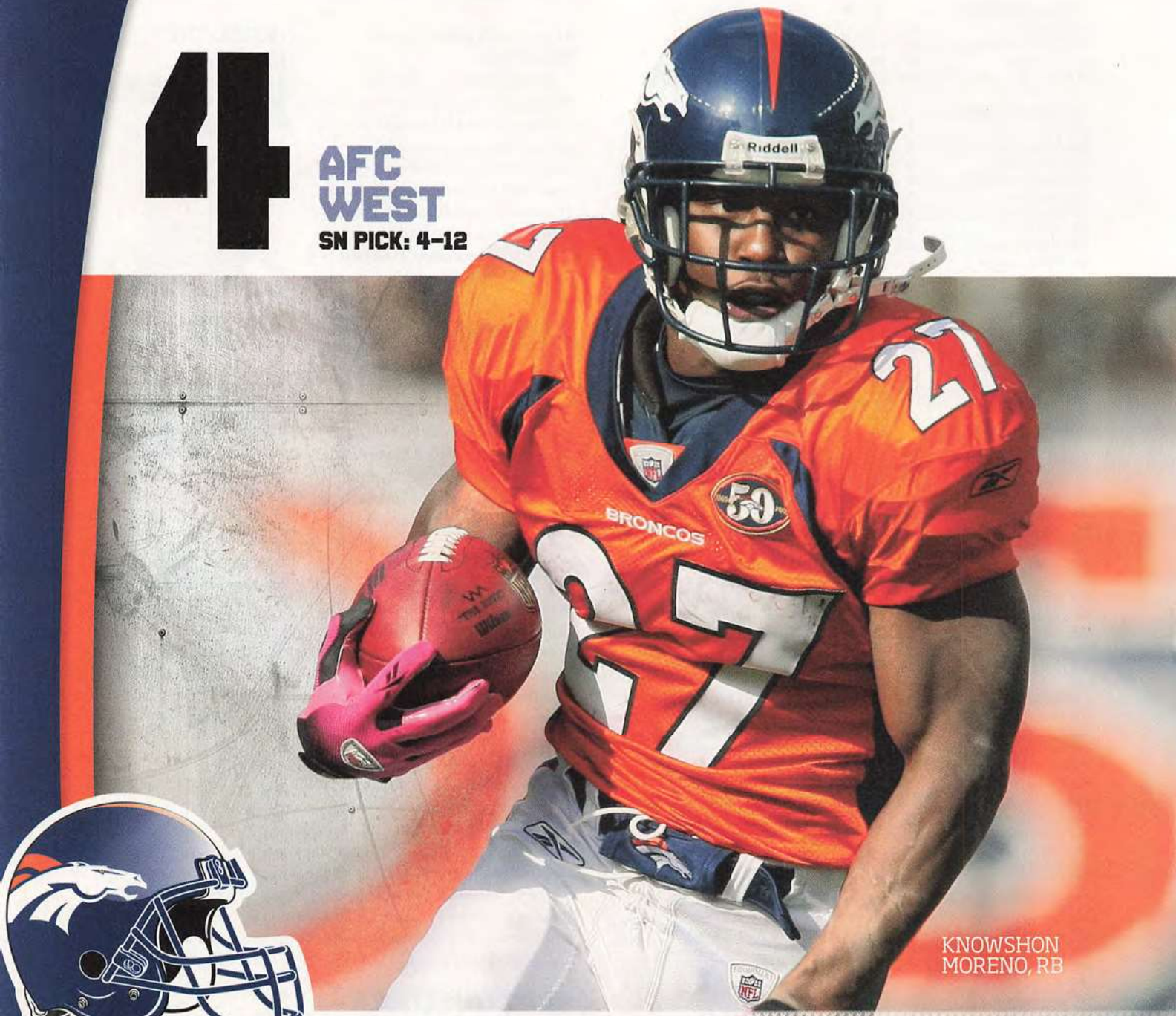
72
FINAL GRADE

STEADY
STOCK REPORT

4

AFC WEST

SN PICK: 4-12



KNOWSHON MORENO, RB

DENVER BRONCOS

Can Broncos survive McDaniels' my-way-or-highway mentality?

By Lee Rasizer, *correspondent*

Josh McDaniels knows how to make an entrance. A personality clash helped usher Jay Cutler out of town just weeks into McDaniels' head-coaching tenure in Denver last spring. During last year's draft, McDaniels' first as a head coach, the Broncos dealt away their 2010 first-round pick, which turned out to be No. 14 overall.

Once training camp began last summer, a petulant Brandon Marshall tested the organization's patience and, again, McDaniels put his foot down in the form of a suspension. But the flashiest entrance was Denver beginning 2009 as one of the league's hottest teams.

Then everything crashed. Denver became the third team ever to open 6-0 and fail to make the playoffs, and the first not to finish with a winning record. At the same time, an adequate defensive line fizzled; quarterback Kyle Orton went back to being solid over spectacular; and running back Knowshon Moreno hit the rookie wall.

While McDaniels was more calm this offseason, the rest of the front office was busy replacing a defensive coordinator and revamping a conditioning program in hopes of avoiding another late-season slide. The Broncos also dealt Marshall to Miami and tight end Tony Scheffler to Detroit. Then Tim Tebow was picked up in the first round of the draft, putting McDaniels in the crosshairs of media and fans.

"I'm not really concerned about a legacy," said McDaniels during draft weekend. "We're concerned about winning and, if we win, I think we'll all be very pleased with the outcome."

OFFENSE

The Broncos have gone from a running-game powerhouse to a chuck-it mentality, and it led them to a No. 15 ranking in total offense and No. 20 in scoring last year. McDaniels and offensive coordinator Mike McCoy want a more power-based rushing attack, and they tweaked the personnel up front to accommodate that style.

With Marshall gone, the passing game will rely more on spreading the ball around rather than focusing on one receiver. Yet it remains to be seen whether McDaniels can capture the magic with Orton that he once did with his New England quarterbacks. If not, he won't hesitate to turn to newcomer Brady Quinn or Tebow to move Denver into the next decade.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ Orton has been labeled a "game manager," which is partially true. He plays well in his comfort zone, but at times Orton looks like he could use his arm to his advantage more often if given a little more rope.

Orton (3,802 yards, 21 TDs in 2009) says he wants to push the field more in 2010 but won't take unnecessary chances. He isn't a risk-taker like Cutler, which is a blessing and a curse. Only 43 of Orton's 336 completions last year went more than 20 yards, and just four of those reached the end zone. But he's 29-19 as a starter.

Still, Orton will be scrutinized closely this season with Quinn and Tebow backing him up. Quinn, whose confidence and body took a beating in Cleveland, has a 52.1-percent completion rate and an average of 5.4 yards per attempt as a pro. Tebow may insert himself into the mix in Wildcat packages. **GRADE: B-**

Running backs ▸▸ Denver scored just nine touchdowns on the ground last season, a number not befitting a franchise that has compiled an NFL-best 32,829 rushing yards and 244 touchdowns since 1995.

The pedestrian play of Moreno contributed to that shortcoming, along with inconsistent blocking. More is expected of

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

JABAR GAFFNEY — **WR**

Gaffney knows coach Josh McDaniels' offensive system inside and out, having played for him with two teams. Now that Brandon Marshall's gone, Orton will be looking for a go-to receiver, and Gaffney could be a great target.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Kyle Orton Brady Quinn
RB	Knowshon Moreno Correll Buckhalter
LT	Ryan Clady Tyler Polumbus
LG	Russ Hochstein Eric Olsen
C	J.D. Walton Dustin Fry
RG	Chris Kuper Seth Olsen
RT	Ryan Harris Zane Beadles
TE	Daniel Graham Richard Quinn
WR	Jabar Gaffney Demaryius Thomas
WR	Brandon Stokley Eric Decker
WR	Eddie Royal Kenny McKinley
	DEFENSE
LE	Justin Bannan Marcus Thomas
NT	Jamal Williams Ronald Fields
RE	Jarvis Green Ryan McBean
OLB	Robert Ayers Darrell Reid
ILB	D.J. Williams Wesley Woodyard
ILB	Mario Haggan Spencer Larsen
OLB	Elvis Dumervil Jarvis Moss
LCB	Champ Bailey Alphonso Smith
SS	Brian Dawkins Darcel McBath
FS	Renaldo Hill David Bruton
RCB	Andre Goodman Nate Jones
	SPECIALISTS
K	Matt Prater
P	Britton Colquitt
KR	J.J. Arrington
PR	Perrish Cox
LS	Lonie Paxton

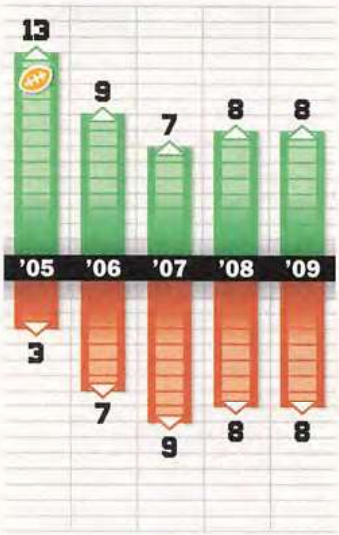
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 8-8 HOME: 4-4

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/broncos
www.denverbroncos.com

STADIUM
Invesco Field at Mile High
Capacity: 76,125 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 720-258-3333
Training Camp: Paul D. Bowlen Broncos Memorial Centre, Englewood, Colo.; 303-749-9000

OPPOSITE: RICH GABRIELSON

5-YEAR RECORD: 45-35



KEY PLAYOFFS | AFC TITLE | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

him in 2010, and he'll have a new position coach in Eric Studesville.

Correll Buckhalter suffered a right-ankle sprain in December but showed surprising speed and power before the injury. **GRADE: C**

Receivers ▸▸ McDaniels and Marshall just couldn't coexist. So after much hemming and hawing, the talented wideout was shipped to Miami before the draft for a pair of second-round picks.

The Broncos took someone with a similar skill set with the 22nd overall pick in Georgia Tech's Demaryius Thomas. There will be some adjustment for Thomas in route-running, but his 25.1 yards-per-catch average last year with the Yellow Jackets demonstrates game-breaking ability.

The two holdovers most affected by Marshall's loss will be Jabar Gaffney and Eddie Royal. Gaffney will try to build on flashes of brilliance, including a 213-yard performance in the regular-season finale. Royal will attempt to prove he wasn't a flash in the pan after a steep decline following an exemplary rookie season.

McDaniels and Orton both regret not making Royal more of an offensive focal point and will have no impediments now with Marshall gone. Denver's draft also yielded a potential contributor in Minnesota's Eric Decker, whose toughness and superb hands could push Brandon Stokley to the role of a third-down slot receiver, provided he's recovered from a Lisfranc sprain in his left foot.

Tight ends Daniel Graham and Richard Quinn aren't major weapons working the seams and are mainly counted on for blocking. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▸▸ Gone is former line coach Rick Dennison to Houston, and with him goes the old philosophy of smaller, quicker athletes up front whose backside blocks freed numerous cutback runs in Denver. McDaniels and new offensive line coach Clancy Barone favor size and brawn up front.

Left tackle Ryan Clady is a legitimate Pro Bowl talent to build around. However, he suffered a patellar tendon injury in the offseason, which required surgery. It's unclear whether he'll be ready for the start of the season. The steep falloff after right tackle Ryan Harris went down with a season-ending toe injury demonstrated his value last year. He should be solid in 2010.

Where the Broncos need help is in the trenches. Right guard Chris Kuper signed his restricted free agent tender and fits the physical brand Denver wants. The team then spent the draft trying to buttress the other two spots vacated by Casey Wiegmann (released) and Ben Hamilton (who signed with Seattle).

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Demariyus Thomas steps into Brandon Marshall's spot, but don't expect Marshall-like production from a rookie receiver on a team that could be unsettled at quarterback.

BUY
Knowshon Moreno
RB

SELL
Kyle Orton
QB

SLEEPER
Eddie Royal
WR

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	341.4	15
RUSHING	114.8	18
PASSING	226.7	13
SCORING	326	20
PUNT RETURNS	9.5	11
KICK RETURNS	21.4	27
RED ZONE TD %	48.1	23t
TOTAL DEFENSE	315.0	7
AGAINST RUSH	128.7	26
AGAINST PASS	186.3	3
POINTS ALLOWED	324	12t
INTERCEPTIONS	17	13t
SACKS	39	10
TURNOVER DIFF.	7	7

BRONCOS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Simon Fletcher** *(1985-95)* — **97.5**
2. **Karl Mecklenburg** *(1983-94)* — **79.0**
3. **Trevor Pryce** *(1997-2005)* — **64.0**

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Broncos)

"They started really fast and died down the stretch last year. It looked like they played really solid defense then just collapsed. With a new head coach, and then all of (a) sudden with a new defensive coordinator and now another new defensive coordinator, I would have to use the word unsettled. ...

"To me, all the things that happened last year showed (coach) Josh McDaniels' inexperience. He looked a little impetuous in trying to make a stand and portray an image as a tough guy. You don't really need to portray an image. You just have to be smart in what you do. I don't know all the insides and outs of what happened, but while he looked like a 'boy genius' early on it certainly wasn't built on anything very substantial because it collapsed. ...

"But with all the stability that team had through the years with (former coach Mike) Shanahan, once they ran him out of there for whatever reason, from afar, it looks like it's gone from something very stable in Denver to something unstable."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	12-7	at Cincinnati Bengals
09/20	W	27-6	Cleveland Browns
09/27	W	23-3	at Oakland Raiders
10/04	W	17-10	Dallas Cowboys
10/11	W	20-17	New England Patriots
10/19	W	34-23	at San Diego Chargers
11/01	L	7-30	at Baltimore Ravens
11/09	L	10-28	Pittsburgh Steelers
11/15	L	17-27	at Washington Redskins
11/22	L	3-32	San Diego Chargers
11/26	W	26-6	New York Giants
12/06	W	44-13	at Kansas City Chiefs
12/13	L	16-28	at Indianapolis Colts
12/20	L	19-20	Oakland Raiders
12/27	L	27-30	at Philadelphia Eagles
01/03	L	24-44	Kansas City Chiefs

WON 8, LOST 8

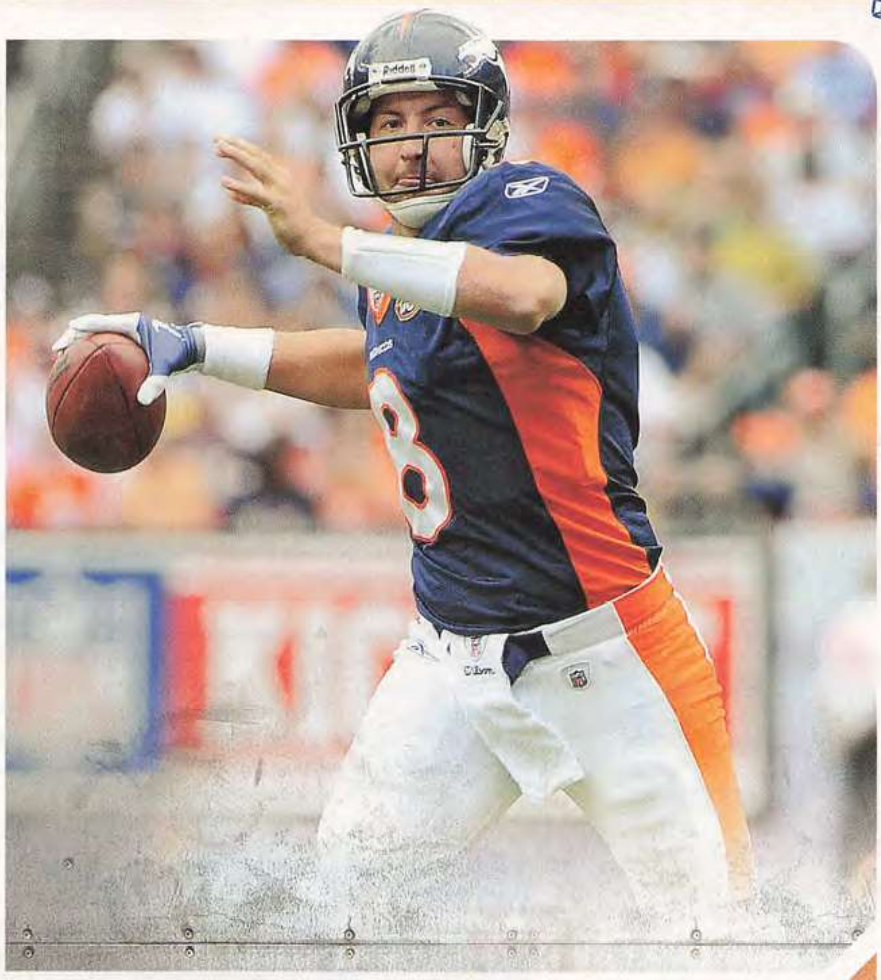
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Moreno	247	947	3.8	36	7
Buckhalter	120	642	5.4	45	1
Jordan	25	86	3.4	13	0
Orton	24	71	3.0	13	0
Hillis	13	54	4.2	13	1
Marshall	7	39	5.6	14	0
Royal	1	1	1.0	1	0
Simms	3	-4	-1.3	-1	0
BRONCOS	**440**	**1836**	**4.2**	**45**	**9**
OPPONENTS	458	2059	4.5	56	11

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Marshall	101	1120	11.1	75	10
Gaffney	54	732	13.6	49	2
Royal	37	345	9.3	20	0
Scheffler	31	416	13.4	52	2
Buckhalter	31	240	7.7	30	0
Graham	28	289	10.3	24	1
Moreno	28	213	7.6	27	2
Stokley	19	327	17.2	87	4
Lloyd	8	117	14.6	44	0
Hillis	4	19	4.8	6	0
BRONCOS	**341**	**3627**	**10.6**	**87**	**21**
OPPONENTS	298	2981	10.0	53	18

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Orton	541	336	3802	21	12
Simms	17	5	23	0	1
BRONCOS	**558**	**341**	**3627**	**21**	**13**
OPPONENTS	510	298	2981	18	17

SACKS — **BRONCOS 39, OPPONENTS 34**

Dumervil 17, Holliday 5, Reid 4, Davis 3.5, Williams 3.5, Hill 2, Goodman 1, Haggan 1, Peterson 1, Smith 1



THE BOOK ON ... KYLE ORTON

(how a rival sizes him up)

"He's clearly a veteran guy that you're going to have to try and confuse. You've got to spin your safeties and give him some (different) looks. That's the No. 1 thing. He can make all the throws and he's a smart guy, and what you really need to do with your underneath coverage is look like you're playing post and then roll to a two-deep defense. ...

"He does a very nice job of attacking seams in the defense. So you have to keep (giving) him a post defense look and then roll to a two-deep look somewhere along the line, because if you just line up in an eight-man front to stop his run game, he's got enough savvy and arm to beat you. You can't stay static on the back end with that guy, because he knows where to go with the football."

Zane Beadles, a 2010 second-round pick, was a left tackle in college but will likely play right tackle or move inside in the pros. He should challenge Russ Hochstein (coming off knee surgery) and 2009 draft pick Seth Olsen at left guard.

Third-round pick J.D. Walton has an excellent chance of becoming the starting center. Walton's training camp competition will come from sixth-round pick Eric Olsen, another top-five center in the draft, journeyman Dustin Fry and Hochstein, who can play all three interior positions. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

It's no secret the Broncos needed to beef up their front line, and they did so in the offseason with the additions of Justin Bannan, Jarvis Green and Jamal Williams. But Denver also is going on its fifth coordinator in five years with Don Martindale's promotion from linebackers coach. He's expected to bring an aggressive mindset in the team's 3-4 system.

There's plenty of intelligence and work ethic present on this side of the ball, but eight of the team's 11 starters could be age 30 when the season

THE DENVER POST / NEWSCOM

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ Jacksonville	SEPT. 12 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	Seattle	SEPT. 19 | 4:05	W / L
WEEK 3	Indianapolis	SEPT. 26 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 4	@ Tennessee	OCT. 3 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	@ Baltimore	OCT. 10 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	N.Y. Jets	OCT. 17 | 4:05	W / L
WEEK 7	Oakland	OCT. 24 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 8	@ San Francisco*	OCT. 31 | 1:00	W / L
▸▸ WEEK 9	OPEN DATE		
WEEK 10	Kansas City	NOV. 14 | 4:05	W / L
WEEK 11	@ San Diego	NOV. 22 | 8:30	W / L
WEEK 12	St. Louis	NOV. 28 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 13	@ Kansas City	DEC. 5 | 1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ Arizona	DEC. 12 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 15	@ Oakland	DEC. 19 | 4:15	W / L
WEEK 16	Houston	DEC. 26 | 4:05	W / L
WEEK 17	San Diego	JAN. 2 | 4:15	W / L

*In London
Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

opens—not exactly a long-term foundation.

Defensive line ▸▸ Williams has a lot of mileage as a 13th-year pro coming off an injured triceps. The Broncos need a productive Williams to revert to when he was one of the best run-stuffing nose tackles in the NFL. He'll team with Bannan, who started 17 games over the last two seasons with Baltimore, and Green to form the starting trio.

The experience that Ryan McBean, Marcus Thomas and Ronald Fields all received in 2009 should serve them well in a less-pressure-filled rotation this season. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸▸ Elvis Dumervil has become the new face of the franchise and deserves that crown given his classy demeanor off the field and exceptional play on it. Dumervil had a monster season with a league-leading 17 sacks in 2009 but sat out the strength and conditioning program this offseason because he lacks a monster contract. He'll get paid eventually.

However, the payoff for Robert Ayers is less certain. The coaching staff backed his talent, but Ayers' production last year was negligible with 14 unassisted tackles, zero sacks and no forced fumbles.

The Broncos released Andra Davis and will shift 265-pound Mario Haggan inside to flank D.J. Williams, the team's leading tackler in '09. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸▸ This group of 30-somethings sets a high bar when it comes to laser-like focus in the film room. Cornerbacks Champ Bailey and Andre Goodman

OFFSEASON MOVES

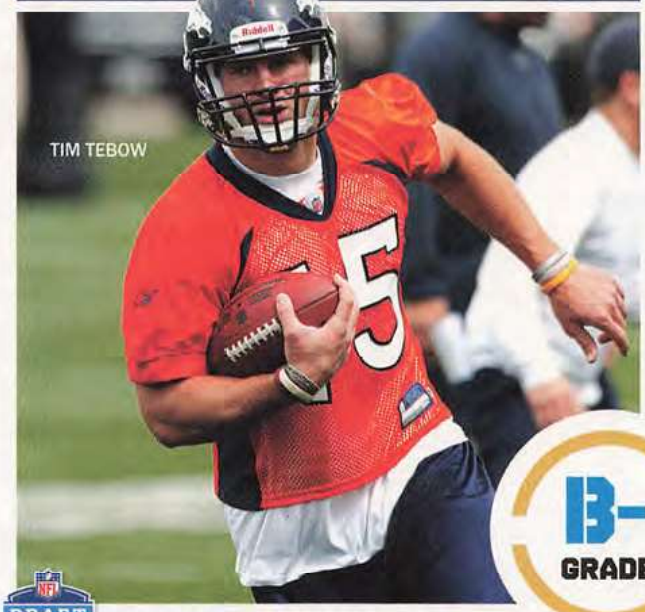
ADDITIONS

DE Jarvis Green *(FA/Patriots)*, **DT Jamal Williams** *(FA/Chargers)*, **QB Brady Quinn** *(trade/Browns)*, **CB Nate Jones** *(FA/Dolphins)*, **DT Justin Bannan** *(FA/Ravens)*, **LB Akin Ayodele** *(FA/Dolphins)*

SUBTRACTIONS

WR Brandon Marshall *(trade/Dolphins)*, **TE Tony Scheffler** *(trade/Lions)*, **LB Andra Davis** *(FA/Bills)*, **RB Peyton Hillis** *(trade/Browns)*, **C Casey Weigmann** *(FA/Chiefs)*, **RB LaMont Jordan** *(FA)*, **G Ben Hamilton** *(FA/Seahawks)*, **CB Ty Law** *(FA)*, **QB Chris Simms** *(FA/Titans)*, **DT J'Vonne Parker** *(FA)*, **DT Kenny Peterson** *(FA)*

DRAFT REPORT


TIM TEBOW

B-
GRADE

While the Broncos trading up to get **Tim Tebow** overshadowed their first pick, wide receiver **Demaryius Thomas** could prove to be the team's best move on draft day. One of the top receivers in the 2010 class, Thomas can make huge plays after the catch and will be a dominant player in the NFL. Tebow, however, has so many experts debating his prowess that he's a long-term project at best, and will likely end up as a backup QB.

Zane Beadles will get a chance to prove himself at offensive tackle, but he boasts the ability to start at guard as well. In the third round, **J.D. Walton** was picked up earlier than he likely should have been. The offensive lineman needs to improve his field play. On the other hand, wide receiver **Eric Decker** was a great third-round gamble, as he is an excellent red-zone receiver.

In the fifth round, the Broncos found cornerback **Perrish Cox**, another steal who has the talent to start with a year or two of seasoning. But he has off-field issues that must be considered.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI / AP

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	22	Demaryius Thomas	WR	6-3	224	Georgia Tech
1	25	Tim Tebow	QB	6-3	236	Florida
2	13	Zane Beadles	G	6-5	310	Utah
3	16	J.D. Walton	C	6-3	300	Baylor
3	23	Eric Decker	WR	6-3	217	Minnesota
5	6	Perrish Cox	CB	6-0	195	Oklahoma State
6	14	Eric Olsen	C	6-4	306	Notre Dame
7	18	Syd'Quan Thompson	CB	5-9	186	California
7	25	Jammie Kirlew	DE	6-1	260	Indiana

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Brandstater, Tom	QB	6-5	220	10/21/1984	2	Fresno State
8 Orton, Kyle	QB	6-4	217	11/14/1982	6	Purdue
9 Quinn, Brady	QB	6-3	235	10/27/1984	4	Notre Dame

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
67 Batiste, D'Anthony	T	6-4	314	03/29/1982	4	Louisiana-Lafayette
78 Clady, Ryan	T	6-6	325	09/06/1986	3	Boise State
62 Fry, Dustin	C	6-3	326	10/03/1983	2	Clemson
74 Harris, Ryan	T	6-5	300	03/11/1985	4	Notre Dame
71 Hochstein, Russ	G	6-4	305	10/07/1977	10	Nebraska
73 Kuper, Chris	G	6-4	302	12/19/1982	5	North Dakota
60 McChesney, Matt	T	6-4	307	11/06/1981	3	Colorado
70 Olsen, Seth	G	6-5	305	12/17/1985	2	Iowa
66 Paxton, Lonie	C	6-2	260	03/13/1978	11	Sacramento State
76 Polumbus, Tyler	T	6-8	310	04/10/1985	3	Colorado

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
26 Arrington, J.J.	RB	5-9	212	01/23/1983	5	California
35 Ball, Lance	RB	5-9	220	06/19/1985	1	Maryland
28 Buckhalter, Correll	RB	6-0	217	10/06/1978	10	Nebraska
42 Hall, Bruce	RB	5-11	205	03/18/1985	1	Ole Miss
27 Moreno, Knowshon	RB	5-11	217	07/16/1987	2	Georgia

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
85 Branson, Marquez	TE	6-3	248	02/14/1987	1	Central Arkansas
10 Gaffney, Jabar	WR	6-1	200	12/01/1980	9	Florida
89 Graham, Daniel	TE	6-3	257	11/16/1978	9	Colorado
84 Lloyd, Brandon	WR	6-0	194	07/05/1981	8	Illinois
11 McKinley, Kenny	WR	6-0	182	01/31/1987	2	South Carolina
81 Quinn, Richard	TE	6-4	264	09/06/1986	2	North Carolina
19 Royal, Eddie	WR	5-10	182	05/21/1986	3	Virginia Tech
14 Stokley, Brandon	WR	5-11	192	06/23/1976	12	Louisiana-Lafayette
12 Willis, Matt	WR	6-0	195	04/13/1984	3	UCLA

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
58 Atkins, Baraka	DE	6-4	268	08/28/1984	4	Miami (FL)
75 Baker, Chris	DT	6-2	298	10/08/1987	2	Hampton
94 Bannan, Justin	DT	6-3	310	04/18/1979	9	Colorado
91 Fields, Ronald	DT	6-2	315	09/13/1981	6	Mississippi State
93 Green, Jarvis	DE	6-3	285	01/12/1979	9	LSU
98 McBean, Ryan	DE	6-5	290	04/23/1984	3	Oklahoma State
97 Smith, Le Kevin	DT	6-3	308	07/21/1982	5	Nebraska
79 Thomas, Marcus	DT	6-3	305	09/23/1985	4	Florida
76 Williams, Jamal	DT	6-3	348	04/28/1976	13	Oklahoma State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
24 Bailey, Champ	CB	6-0	192	06/22/1978	12	Georgia
36 Barrett, Josh	S	6-3	225	11/22/1984	3	Arizona State
30 Bruton, David	S	6-2	205	07/23/1987	2	Notre Dame
25 Carter, Tony	CB	5-9	166	05/24/1986	1	Florida State
20 Dawkins, Brian	S	6-0	210	10/13/1973	15	Clemson
21 Goodman, Andre'	CB	5-10	190	08/11/1978	9	South Carolina
23 Hill, Renaldo	S	5-11	205	11/12/1978	10	Michigan State
33 Jones, Nate	CB	5-10	185	06/15/1982	7	Rutgers
31 McBath, Darcel	S	6-0	198	10/28/1985	2	Texas Tech
22 Smith, Alphonso	CB	5-9	193	10/20/1985	2	Wake Forest

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
56 Ayers, Robert	LB	6-3	272	09/06/1985	2	Tennessee
Ayodele, Akin	LB	6-2	245	09/17/1979	9	Purdue
92 Dumervil, Elvis	LB	5-11	260	01/19/1984	5	Louisville
57 Haggan, Mario	LB	6-3	265	03/03/1980	8	Mississippi State
52 Kelley, Braxton	LB	6-0	226	10/24/1986	1	Kentucky
46 Larsen, Spencer	LB	6-2	240	03/04/1984	3	Arizona
94 Moss, Jarvis	LB	6-6	265	08/03/1984	4	Florida
95 Reid, Darrell	LB	6-2	270	06/20/1982	6	Minnesota
55 Williams, D.J.	LB	6-1	242	07/20/1982	7	Miami (FL)
59 Woodyard, Wesley	LB	6-1	212	07/21/1986	3	Kentucky

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Colquitt, Britton	P	6-3	205	03/20/1985	1	Tennessee
5 Prater, Matt	K	5-10	180	08/10/1984	4	UCF
6 Trapasso, A.J.	P	5-11	225	02/06/1986	1	Ohio State

» JOSH McDANIELS, *Head coach*
Mike McCoy, offensive coordinator; **Don Martindale,** defensive coordinator; **Mike Priefer,** special teams coordinator; **Craig Aukerman,** defensive assistant; **Clancy Barone,** offensive line; **Bob Wylie,** offensive line assistant; **Eric Studesville,** running backs; **Bob Ligashesky,** tight ends; **Adam Gase,** wide receivers; **Ben McDaniels,** quarterbacks; **Ed Donatell,** secondary; **Roman Phifer,** assistant coach/linebackers; **Wayne Nunnely,** defensive line

and safeties Brian Dawkins and Renaldo Hill know tendencies and personnel as well as anyone and can translate that knowledge to the field.

Denver tried to infuse some youth into the mix with the addition of Alphonso Smith last season, but he struggled and it created a revolving door at the nickel back spot. This offseason, the Broncos brought in Nate Jones from Miami to stabilize that trouble spot, while hoping Smith plays more on instinct and less with a cluttered mind.

Denver also drafted Oklahoma State cornerback Perrish Cox in the fifth round; he fell that far due to off-field issues, not talent. Cox could push for playing time in dime packages if Smith doesn't rebound. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Royal is a strong punt return specialist but, if his offensive role increases, Denver would like to take away those responsibilities. The drafting of Cox, who had six career touchdown returns at Oklahoma State, may relieve that pressure as a dual-return threat, though Alphonso Smith (punts) and J.J. Arrington (kickoffs) will challenge.

Strong-legged kicker Matt Prater has emerged as a consistent weapon, tying for second in the NFL with 28 touchbacks and a second straight 100-point season in '09. But the Broncos don't know who will handle punting duties after ditching Mitch Berger. Britton Colquitt, a former University of Tennessee standout, gets the first crack. Should he falter, the Broncos will be combing the waiver wire in training camp. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

The Broncos continue to be a team trying to morph into McDaniels' vision. He's followed the New England model of stacking the roster with smart, tough veterans, but the transformation to a franchise on the upswing is far from complete. Trading two of the team's best players in Cutler and Marshall the last two years was like taking two steps back to make one leap forward.

The young coach has made his point that it's his way or the highway and the locker room is receptive to his team-oriented message. But talent wins out in the NFL. This team needs more playmakers and a continued infusion of youth to be a Super Bowl-caliber franchise.

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JOSH McDANIELS

The label of "offensive wunderkind" seemed misplaced in McDaniels' first year in Denver. To be fair, though, he may have not had the personnel to execute his vision of a downfield-passing game complemented by a strong rushing attack. He wasn't afraid to put the ball in the air in short-yardage situations, although that may be less a gambler's mentality and more to do with the Broncos' inability to grind out tough yards on the ground.

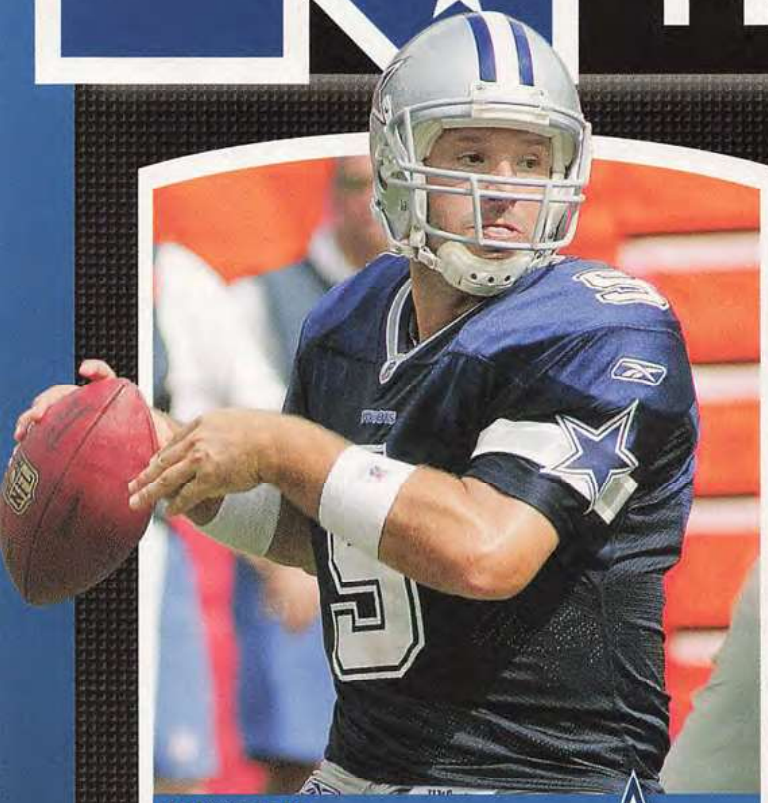
68

FINAL GRADE

STEADY

STOCK REPORT

NFC PREDICTIONS



TONY ROMO

EAST

1 › COWBOYS 12-4

Now that the questions about Tony Romo and December won't be asked, Dallas is the NFC team with the fewest holes. The defense has playmakers across the board, and the Cowboys can close well with their deep running game.

2 › GIANTS 9-7

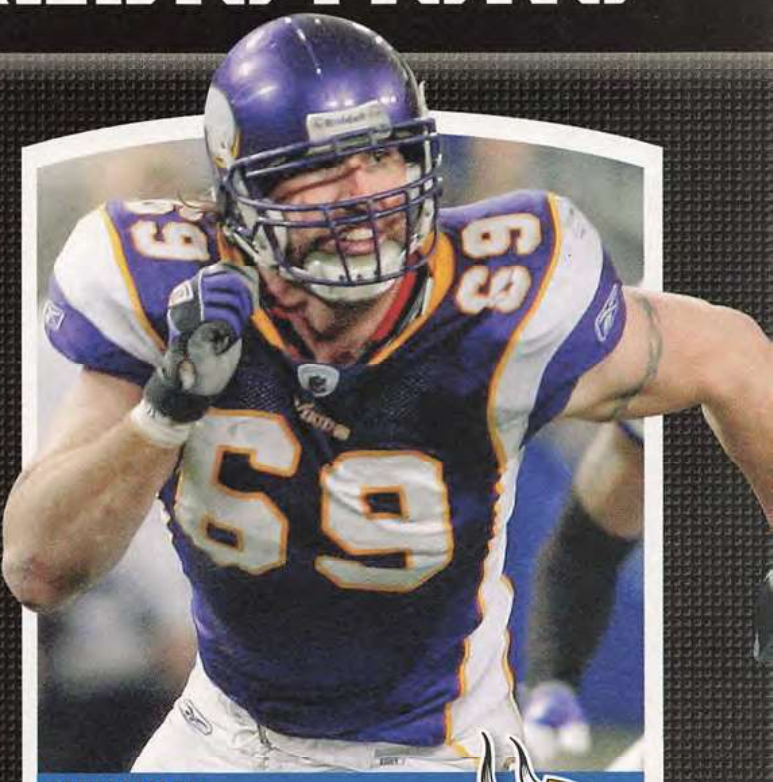
To restore themselves to consistency and then contention, the Giants must get back to their strengths of rushing the passer and running the ball. Much of the burden will be put on Eli Manning again.

3 › EAGLES 9-7

They shouldn't lose much with Kevin Kolb taking the reins of their loaded young offense. Defensively, however, the Eagles need to fill several holes and have the new personnel jell quickly.

4 › REDSKINS 6-10

Donovan McNabb comes in with the feel of a savior. Unfortunately, issues with the offensive line and running game will limit his impact. It will still be hard for the Redskins' offense to keep up with the rest of the NFC East.



JARED ALLEN

NORTH

1 › VIKINGS 12-4

Brett Favre is likely to come back, but he and other key players are a year older. Their window likely stays open for one more season, and it will be a struggle to hold off Green Bay.

2 › PACKERS 11-5

Aaron Rodgers and the players along their 3-4 defensive front have a great future ahead. Now it's up to the Packers to come through better in the backfields—both running the ball and preventing big pass plays.

3 › BEARS 8-8

There will be a bit of a learning curve as Jay Cutler works to grasp Mike Martz's offense, but he should be improved over his first season in Chicago. Look for Julius Peppers to help inject life into the defense.

4 › LIONS 3-13

As they try to get back to respectability, playing in this tough division makes the road seem even longer. The key this year is the progress of offensive "triplets" Matthew Stafford, Calvin Johnson and Kevin Smith.

(L TO R: AI WIREPICS / NEWSCOM; JERRY LAI / US PRESSWIRE

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

COWBOYS OVER VIKINGS

WILD-CARD GAMES

PACKERS OVER FALCONS

SAINTS OVER 49ERS

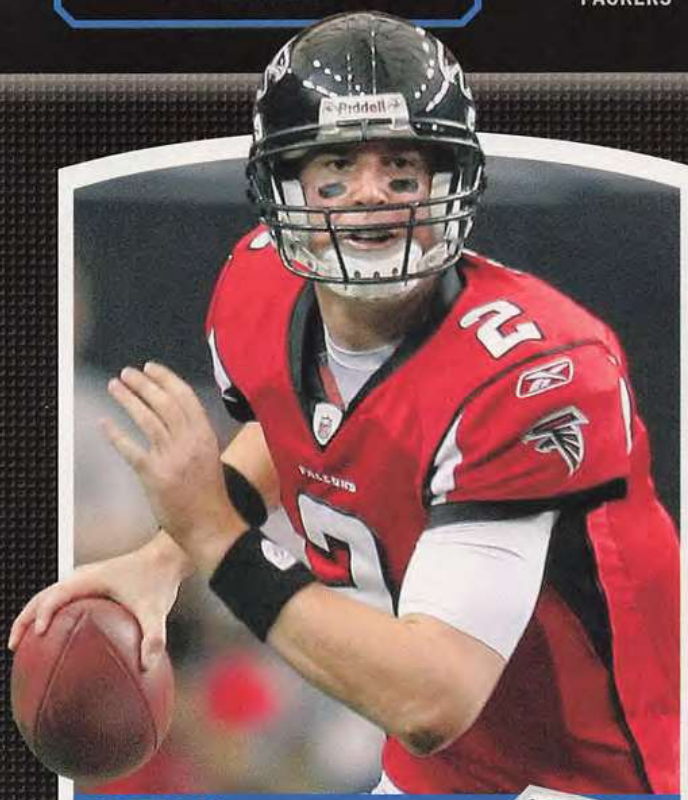
DIVISIONAL GAMES

COWBOYS OVER PACKERS

VIKINGS OVER SAINTS

SUPER BOWL 45

JETS OVER COWBOYS



MATT RYAN

SOUTH

1 FALCONS 12-4

Their 2009 season was derailed when first Michael Turner and then Matt Ryan battled injuries. The offense should return stronger, and the defense is quietly coming together as an impressive young playmaking unit.

2 SAINTS 10-6

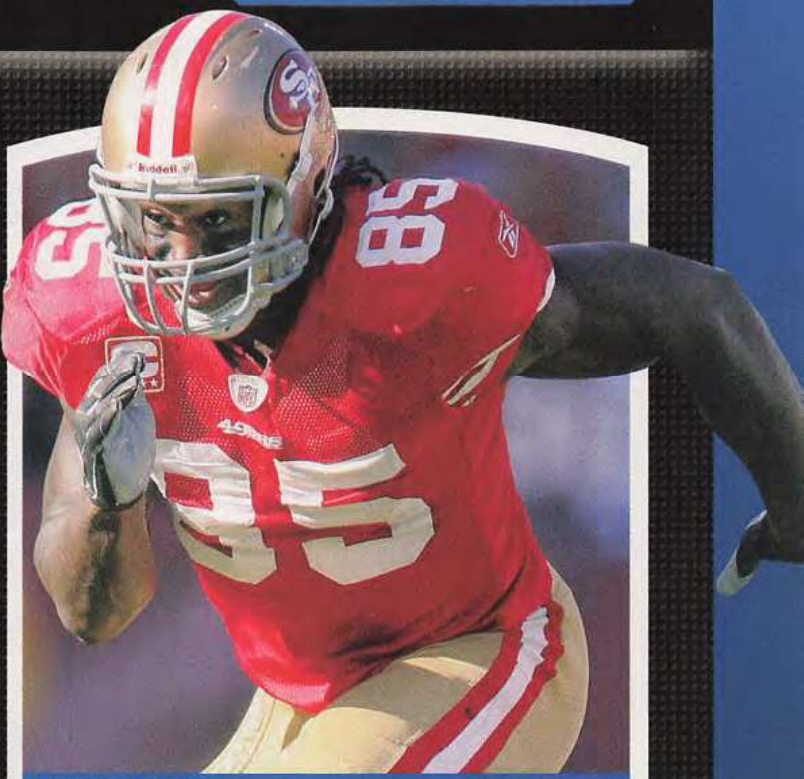
The reigning Super Bowl champions will take a slight step back with their first-place schedule. But with Drew Brees playing his best, they'll still boast the NFC's top offense.

3 PANTHERS 8-8

Matt Moore and rookie Jimmy Clausen will compete for the QB job, and the winner is sure to get great support from his line and running backs. If the pass rush is steady without Julius Peppers, the Panthers can sneak into the wild-card hunt.

4 BUCCANEERS 3-13

Here's yet another rebuilding team stuck in a loaded division. However, the Bucs should feel good about QB Josh Freeman's future. But the defense will battle growing pains.



VERNON DAVIS

WEST

1 49ERS 10-6

Alex Smith might work out after all, especially with help from teammates such as Frank Gore, Vernon Davis and Michael Crabtree. The defense has its own star in Patrick Willis. This feels like "the year" for coach Mike Singletary.

2 CARDINALS 8-8

No knock against Matt Leinart, but it will be hard for any quarterback to follow what Kurt Warner did for Arizona the past two seasons. That QB change, along with several free-agent losses, will help push them out of first place.

3 RAMS 4-12

Quarterback Sam Bradford will have ups and downs as a rookie starter, and the defense will be equally inconsistent. Expect to see some signs of improvement under coach Steve Spagnuolo, though.

4 SEAHAWKS 2-14

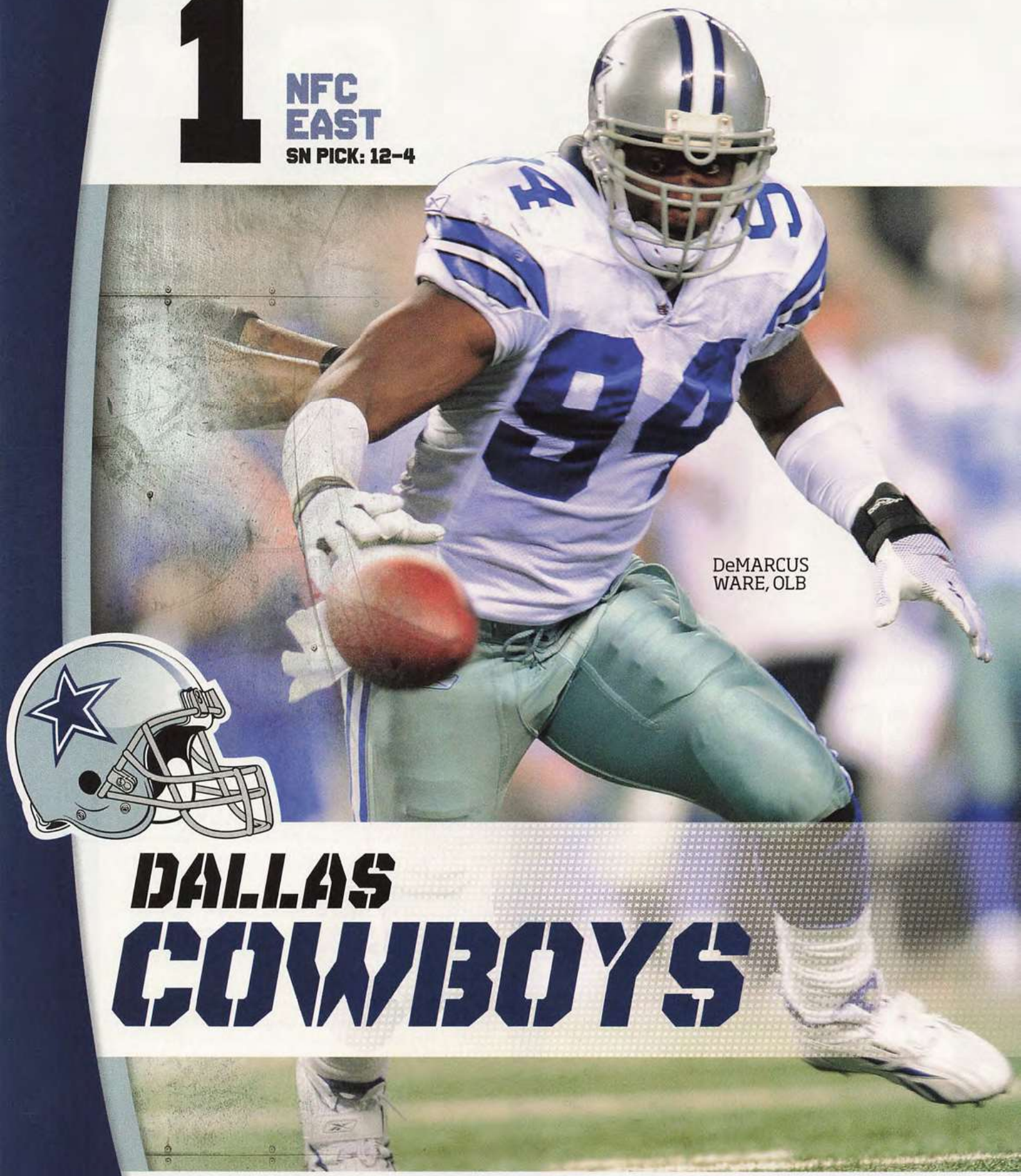
Pete Carroll will remember the feeling of how hard it is to "reload" in the NFL after living the good life of endless talent at USC. The Seahawks will have a hard time in Carroll's first year as coach.

(L TO R): ICON SMI / NEWSCOM; CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM

1

NFC EAST

SN PICK: 12-4



DeMARCUS WARE, OLB

DALLAS COWBOYS

Dallas has what it takes and not far to go to reach Super Bowl

By Jean-Jacques Taylor, *Dallas Morning News*

Owner Jerry Jones and coach Wade Phillips aren't satisfied with the Cowboys. They may have ended an embarrassing streak of 12 consecutive seasons without a playoff win last season. But they want a Super Bowl.

The Cowboys hold themselves to a high standard, with five Super Bowl titles and eight appearances.

While Jones and Phillips are pleased with a 2009 NFC East title and the postseason win over Philadelphia that followed, they both have difficulty getting over the 34-3 spanking Minnesota gave Dallas in the playoffs.

"We're not the least bit satisfied with anything we've done," Jones says. "We were healthier than we'd ever been in 21 years, but we just didn't finish it. We have to work hard to avoid the disappointment we had in Minnesota.

"It should be a reminder to us that we have no room to feel good about ourselves. There may be some projections of where we can go this year coming from outside of our building, but we can't rest on anything. In this building, we know how much work we have to do."

OFFENSE

Dallas threw the ball 57.3 percent of the time last year, and Tony Romo, tight end Jason Witten and receiver Miles Austin made the Pro Bowl.

Running backs Felix Jones, Marion Barber and Tashard Choice give the Cowboys' running game diversity, as they can attack the perimeter with speed or the interior with power. Dallas and New Orleans were the only NFL teams ranked among the top 10 in both rushing (the Cowboys were 7th) and passing (6th).

Quarterbacks ▸▸ Romo, coming off the best season of his career, seems poised to become one of the league's top quarterbacks, as he's finally discovered the balance between being a reckless gunslinger and cautious tactician.

The proof is in the statistics.

Romo passed for 4,483 yards last season with 26 touchdowns and just nine interceptions as the Cowboys won their second division title in three seasons.

He's entering his fourth year with Jason Garrett in charge of the passing game, so the eight-year veteran understands every nuance of the offense.

Jon Kitna has been a journeyman starter in the league, but he wasn't impressive in the preseason last year. At age 37, he may never knock the rust off.

Second-year man Stephen McGee should get an opportunity in the preseason to prove he's ready to challenge for the backup job. **GRADE: A**

Running backs ▸▸ Garrett should have one mission this year: Find more ways to get the ball into Felix Jones' hands. He's the Cowboys' most electric running back since Tony Dorsett.

Yes, Emmitt Smith is the NFL's all-time leading rusher, but he was a powerful, efficient warrior. Not many would describe him as electric.

Jones has game-breaking speed and tremendous vision that makes him a threat to score from anywhere on the field.

Still, Garrett deserves credit for finding roles for Jones, Barber and Choice, which keeps all of them mentally involved in the game. Jones is expected to start ahead of Barber this season and carry the ball about 15 times a game, while Barber and Choice will compete for the backup job.

Barber struggled in the second half of the season as a short-yardage runner due to injuries and scored just seven touchdowns. But Barber's sluggish second halves the

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

FELIX JONES — RB

In his first two seasons, Jones had only 146 carries but averaged 6.5 yards with six touchdowns. If he starts and stays healthy, Jones should become the Cowboys' first 1,200-yard rusher in a decade.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Tony Romo Jon Kitna
FB	Deon Anderson
RB	Felix Jones Marion Barber
LT	Doug Free Alex Barron
LG	Kyle Kosier Montrae Holland
C	Andre Gurode Corey Procter
RG	Leonard Davis Montrae Holland
RT	Marc Colombo Pat McQuistan
TE	Jason Witten Martellus Bennett
WR	Miles Austin Patrick Crayton
WR	Roy Williams Dez Bryant
	DEFENSE
LE	Marcus Spears Jason Hatcher
NT	Jay Ratliff Junior Siavii
RE	Igor Olshanski Stephen Bowen
OLB	DeMarcus Ware Brandon Williams
ILB	Bradie James Sean Lee
ILB	Keith Brooking Sean Lee
OLB	Anthony Spencer Victor Butler
LCB	Terence Newman Orlando Scandrick
SS	Alan Ball Mike Hamlin
FS	Gerald Sensabaugh Mike Hamlin
RCB	Mike Jenkins Orlando Scandrick
	SPECIALISTS
K	David Buehler
P	Mat McBriar
KR	Felix Jones
PR	Patrick Crayton
LS	L.P. Ladouceur

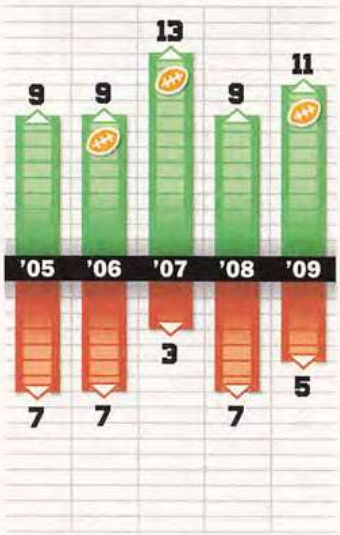
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 11-5 HOME: 6-2

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/cowboys
www.dallascowboys.com

STADIUM
Cowboys Stadium
Capacity: 80,000 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 817-892-5000
Training Camp: Alamodome (San Antonio) and River Ridge Field, Oxnard, Calif.; 972-556-9959

CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM

5-YEAR RECORD: 51-29



last two seasons are creating an opportunity for Choice, who could get more playing time as a result.

Choice, the third-down back last season, has proved he's capable of handling a larger role in the offense. **GRADE: B+**

Receivers ▸▸ Jerry Jones spent first-, third- and fifth-round draft picks to acquire Roy Williams. Then he gave the receiver a six-year, $45 million deal. Jones has yet to receive a return on his investment.

The Cowboys signed Austin as a priority free agent four seasons ago and all he did in 2009 was catch 81 passes for 1,320 yards and 11 touchdowns.

So it turned out that Austin—not Williams—was the player who replaced Terrell Owens' production.

Now the Cowboys hope Austin isn't just a one-year wonder. There's no tangible evidence to suggest he is, but Austin knows he'll be seeing the opponents' top cornerback this season, as well as creative schemes designed to contain him.

That should give Williams a few opportunities to thrive, but there's nothing to indicate he can be a difference-maker anymore. Williams could be overtaken by Dez Bryant, the team's first-round pick this year. Bryant was rated one of the top receivers in the draft but fell to 24th overall because of some character issues.

Still, Witten remains Romo's favorite target. He's the guy Romo looks for on third downs and at the end of the game, because he trusts the veteran to be open when and where he's expected to be available.

Patrick Crayton has proved to be a quality No. 3 receiver, but there were reports that he was lobbying for a trade following the draft. **GRADE: B**

Offensive line ▸▸ The Cowboys are putting a lot of faith in Doug Free after cutting left tackle Flozell Adams, a 12-year veteran. The thought is that it's time to infuse some youth in an offensive line that was inconsistent much of the season, despite the Cowboys finishing ninth in the NFL in total offense.

Marc Colombo allowed three sacks in the playoff loss to Minnesota, and Leonard Davis had his worst season in Dallas, despite a trip to the Pro Bowl. Left guard Kyle Kosier, the most underrated member of the line, had the best year because of his consistency.

Andre Gurode, a perennial Pro Bowl player, must return to his dominant playing style. Dallas acquired former first-round pick Alex Barron from the Rams in May, and he could challenge Free for the starting spot at left tackle. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

With Phillips controlling the defense, the Cowboys finished second in the

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

It's unclear how the Cowboys will split carries among all their backs, but it does seem clear that Marion Barber is no longer a dependable fantasy starter.

BUY
Miles Austin
WR

SELL
Roy Williams
WR

SLEEPER
Tashard Choice
RB

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	399.4	2
RUSHING	131.4	7
PASSING	267.9	6
SCORING	361	14
PUNT RETURNS	10.9	6
KICK RETURNS	22.0	20
RED ZONE TD %	52.0	14
TOTAL DEFENSE	315.9	9
AGAINST RUSH	90.5	4
AGAINST PASS	225.4	20
POINTS ALLOWED	250	2
INTERCEPTIONS	11	26t
SACKS	42	7
TURNOVER DIFF.	2	13t

COWBOYS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1	Jim Jeffcoat *(1983-94)*	94.5
2	Greg Ellis *(1998-2008)*	77.0
3	DeMarcus Ware *(2005-present)*	64.5

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Cowboys)

"What's not to like about the Cowboys? But they've got a small window to win. ...

"You don't get to hang around as a contender indefinitely, because if the Cowboys don't win it all or get to the NFC championship game there are going to be changes. Maybe it'll be the coach. Maybe people will start looking at (Tony) Romo. He was great last year, and he should be the same this year with another year of experience in the league. And who knows? But change occurs if you're good and don't win it. ...

"They have a great offense, but there have to be some questions about the left tackle (Doug Free). They like him, but they need some depth just in case he can't get the job done. ...

"They need a free safety on defense and another cornerback in case of injury and because so many teams are using four-receiver sets."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	34-21	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
09/20	L	31-33	New York Giants
09/28	W	21-7	Carolina Panthers
10/04	L	10-17	at Denver Broncos
10/11	W	26-20	at Kansas City Chiefs
10/25	W	37-21	Atlanta Falcons
11/01	W	38-17	Seattle Seahawks
11/08	W	20-16	at Philadelphia Eagles
11/15	L	7-17	at Green Bay Packers
11/22	W	7-6	Washington Redskins
11/26	W	24-7	Oakland Raiders
12/06	L	24-31	at New York Giants
12/13	L	17-20	San Diego Chargers
12/19	W	24-17	at New Orleans Saints
12/27	W	17-0	at Washington Redskins
01/03	W	24-0	Philadelphia Eagles

WON 11, LOST 5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Barber	214	932	4.4	35	7
Jones	116	685	5.9	56	3
Choice	64	349	5.5	66	3
Romo	35	105	3.0	17	1
Crayton	4	28	7.0	20	0
Ogletree	1	6	6.0	6	0
Austin	2	-2	-1.0	11	0
COWBOYS	436	2103	4.8	66	14
OPPONENTS	365	1448	4.0	35	7

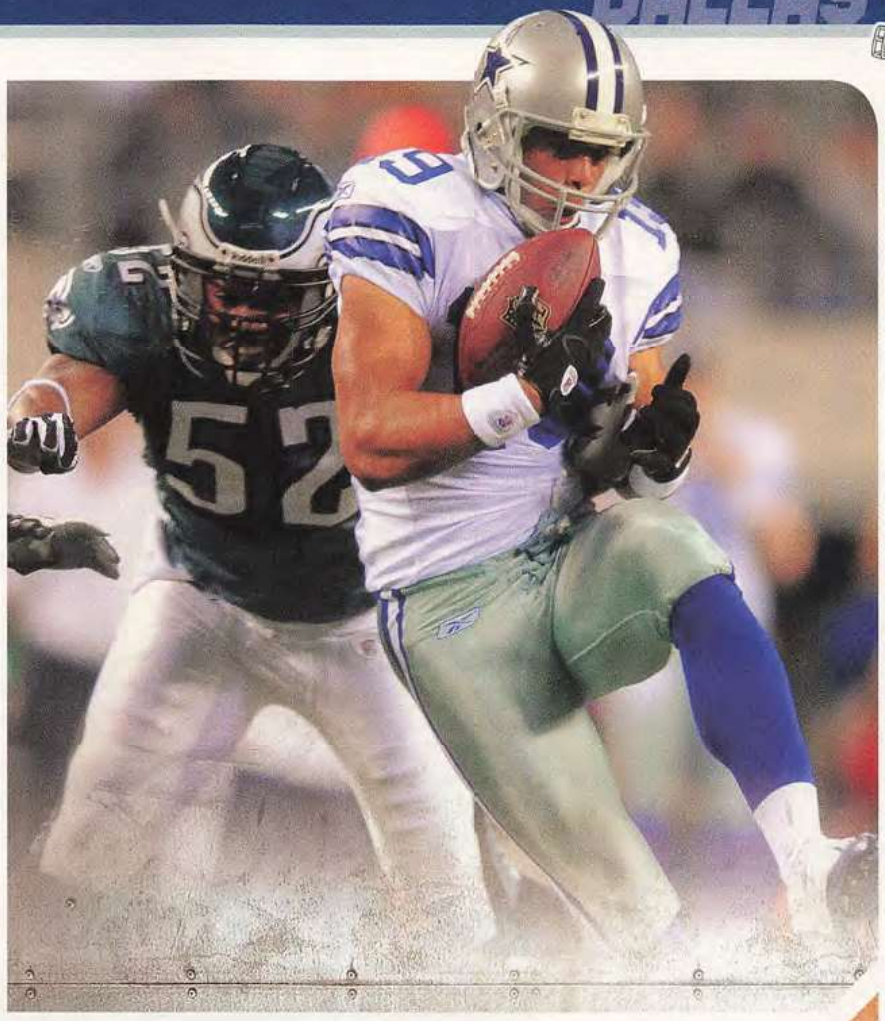
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Witten	94	1030	11.0	69	2
Austin	81	1320	16.3	60	11
Williams	38	596	15.7	66	7
Crayton	37	622	16.8	80	5
Barber	26	221	8.5	42	0
Jones	19	119	6.3	30	0
Bennett	15	159	10.6	21	0
Choice	15	132	8.8	28	0
Hurd	7	121	17.3	53	1
Ogletree	7	96	13.7	21	0
Phillips	7	62	8.9	23	0
Anderson	1	5	5.0	5	0
COWBOYS	347	4483	12.9	80	26
OPPONENTS	344	3603	10.5	74	19

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Romo	550	347	4483	26	9
COWBOYS	550	347	4483	26	9
OPPONENTS	572	344	3874	19	11

SACKS COWBOYS 42, OPPONENTS 34

Ware 11, Ratliff 6, Spencer 6, Bowen 3, Brooking 3, Butler 3, Spears 2.5, James 2, Carpenter 2, Hatcher 1, Olshansky 1.5, Scandrick 1,

CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM



THE BOOK ON ... MILES AUSTIN

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Miles Austin surprised me a little bit with his success last season, because I certainly didn't see him as a guy who was going to put up the kind of numbers he did. I saw him as a straight-line guy with good speed, but not much wriggle. Frankly, I didn't view him as a guy who was that difficult to slow down. Obviously, I was wrong. ...

"The Cowboys did a good job of finding routes that got him the ball in position to catch it on the run, and he's such a big, physical receiver that he will run through arm tackles. He catches the ball more consistently than he did his first few seasons in the league. He tries to go get the ball instead of waiting for it to come to him. If you watch him, you'll notice he usually catches the ball with his hands, not his body."

NFL in points allowed and recorded consecutive shutouts for the first time in franchise history.

Phillips, a master at finding flaws in pass protection schemes, helped Dallas earn 42 sacks in 2009. The key to Phillips' aggressive 3-4 scheme are outside linebackers DeMarcus Ware and Anthony Spencer and a secondary capable of man coverage, so the Cowboys can use extra defenders to rush the passer.

Defensive line ▸▸ Jay Ratliff, a former seventh-round pick, has made himself one of the best nose tackles in the NFL. He does it with nonstop effort and first-step quickness that makes it hard for centers to handle him in one-on-one blocking situations. He had 40 tackles, six sacks and two forced fumbles last season.

Ratliff is one of the best pass-rushing interior linemen in the NFL, and the Cowboys would love to trust backup Junior Siavii to play about 25 snaps a game so they could rest Ratliff more in running situations.

Former first-round pick Marcus Spears is coming off the best season of his career. One reason Dallas finished fourth in the NFL against the

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Washington — SEPT. 12 | 8:20 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 2 Chicago — SEPT. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 3 @ Houston — SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 4 OPEN DATE

WEEK 5 Tennessee — OCT. 10 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 6 @ Minnesota — OCT. 17 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 7 N.Y. Giants — OCT. 25 | 8:30 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 8 Jacksonville — OCT. 31 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 9 @ Green Bay — NOV. 7 | 8:20 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 10 @ N.Y. Giants — NOV. 14 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 11 Detroit — NOV. 21 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 12 New Orleans — NOV. 25 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 13 @ Indianapolis — DEC. 5 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 14 Philadelphia — DEC. 12 | 8:20 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 15 Washington — DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 16 @ Arizona — DEC. 25 | 7:30 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 17 @ Philadelphia — JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

run is because Spears did a terrific job on the strong side, funneling plays back inside instead of allowing teams to attack the perimeter.

Igor Olshansky, one of the Cowboys' top free-agent acquisitions before last season, was just as good on the weak side.

Backup Stephen Bowen has emerged as a terrific pass rusher, especially in the nickel defense, while Jason Hatcher has proved to be solid. **GRADE: B+**

Linebackers ▸▸ The Cowboys expected Ware to be one of the game's best players. They weren't nearly as sure about Spencer.

He struggled the first month but improved by the season's end, finishing with 67 tackles, six sacks, two forced fumbles and an interception. At the end of last year, Spencer was making nearly as many plays as Ware, the Pro Bowl weakside linebacker who finished with 11 sacks.

Ware, though, is the kind of dominant player who forces offensive coordinators to spend the week trying to figure out how to use him. Ware attacks tackles with speed and power, but he's not so consumed with getting sacks that he ignores playing the run.

Inside linebackers Bradie James and Keith Brooking didn't make as many spectacular plays as Ware and Spencer, but they helped the Cowboys hold opponents to just 19.2 points per game.

Second-round pick Sean Lee will see time in the rotation, especially with the offseason trade of Bobby Carpenter to the Rams.

GRADE: B+

Secondary ▸▸ Terence Newman is no longer the Cowboys' best cornerback. That distinction now belongs to Mike Jenkins.

Jenkins, a first-round pick in 2008, was average as a rookie, but he beat out Orlando Scandrick for the starting job during the first month of the season. And once he

OFFSEASON MOVES

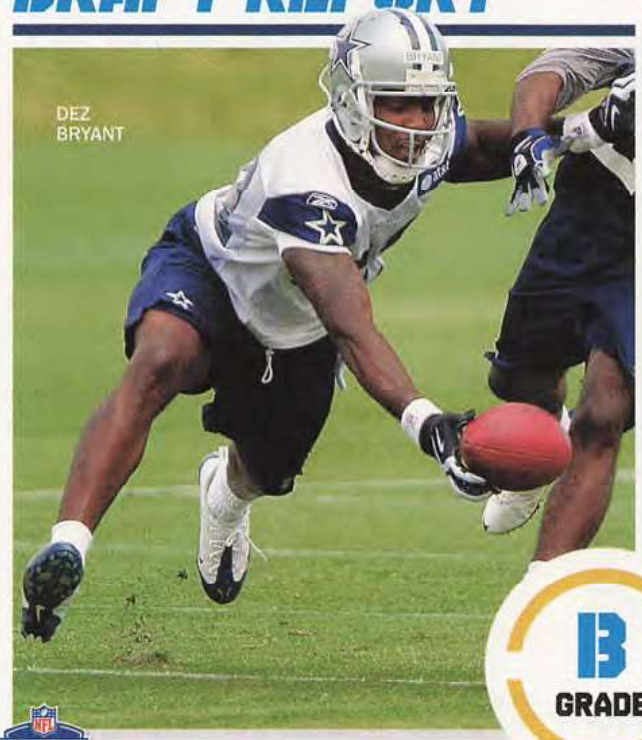
ADDITIONS

OT Alex Barron *(trade/Rams)*

SUBTRACTIONS

K Shaun Suisham *(FA)*, **S Ken Hamlin** *(FA)*, **OT Flozell Adams** *(FA)*, **K Nick Folk** *(FA/Jets)*, **LB Bobby Carpenter** *(trade/Rams)*

DRAFT REPORT



GRADE: B

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	24	Dez Bryant	WR	6-2	224	Oklahoma State
2	23	Sean Lee	LB	6-2	236	Penn State
4	28	Akwasi Owusu-Ansah	CB	6-0	207	Indiana (Pa.)
6	10	Sam Young	OT	6-8	316	Notre Dame
6	27	Jamar Wall	CB	5-10	204	Texas Tech
7	27	Sean Lissemore	DT	6-4	286	William & Mary

The Cowboys got a bargain when they traded up to get **Dez Bryant** with the 24th overall pick. He may become the team's No. 1 receiver early in his career. While some teams had concerns about **Sean Lee**'s ability to play linebacker in a 4-3 scheme, Dallas' 3-4 attack will be a great fit for him. He should contribute as a rookie.

The Cowboys took a flier on D2 cornerback **Akwasi Owusu-Ansah**, who is a better athlete than football player but was a good gamble in the fourth round. If he pans out, they'll have a talented backfield threat. The Cowboys will at least get a solid backup in **Sam Young**, a strong, competitive offensive tackle.

William & Mary defensive tackle **Sean Lissemore** will have to prove he can handle the jump in talent level, but he plays a lot like the Chargers' Luis Castillo, who was successful playing in Wade Phillips' defense in San Diego.

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM / NEWSCOM

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Kitna, Jon	QB	6-2	220	09/21/1972	14	Central Washington
7 McGee, Stephen	QB	6-3	218	09/27/1985	2	Texas A&M
9 Romo, Tony	QB	6-2	226	04/21/1980	8	Eastern Illinois

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Barron, Alex	T	6-7	302	09/28/1982	6	Florida State
79 Brewster, Robert	T	6-4	325	07/30/1986	1	Ball State
60 Bright, Travis	G	6-4	321	01/05/1983	1	Brigham Young
75 Colombo, Marc	T	6-8	318	10/08/1978	9	Boston College
70 Davis, Leonard	G	6-6	353	09/05/1978	10	Texas
68 Free, Doug	T	6-6	313	01/06/1984	4	Northern Illinois
65 Gurode, Andre	C	6-4	318	03/06/1978	9	Colorado
64 Holland, Montrae	G	6-2	326	05/21/1980	8	Florida State
63 Kosier, Kyle	G	6-5	307	11/27/1978	9	Arizona State
77 McQuistan, Pat	T	6-6	317	04/30/1983	5	Weber State
69 Preston, Duke	C	6-5	315	06/12/1982	6	Illinois
71 Procter, Cory	C	6-4	311	10/18/1982	6	Montana

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Anderson, Deon	RB	5-10	245	01/27/1983	4	Connecticut
24 Barber, Marion	RB	6-0	222	06/10/1983	6	Minnesota
23 Choice, Tashard	RB	5-10	212	11/20/1984	3	Georgia Tech
31 Donaldson, Herb	RB	5-11	225	12/13/1985	1	Western Illinois
28 Jones, Felix	RB	5-10	218	05/08/1987	3	Arkansas

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
19 Austin, Miles	WR	6-3	214	06/30/1984	5	Monmouth
80 Bennett, Martellus	TE	6-6	265	03/10/1987	3	Texas A&M
84 Crayton, Patrick	WR	6-0	203	04/07/1979	7	Northwestern Oklahoma St.
16 Holley, Jesse	WR	6-2	213	01/08/1984	1	North Carolina
17 Hurd, Sam	WR	6-2	208	04/24/1985	5	Northern Illinois
15 Johnson, Manuel	WR	5-11	195	10/14/1986	1	Oklahoma
85 Ogletree, Kevin	WR	6-0	192	08/05/1987	2	Virginia
89 Phillips, John	TE	6-5	255	06/11/1987	2	Virginia
83 Ryan, Titus	WR	6-0	193	05/19/1984	1	Concordia College
11 Williams, Roy	WR	6-3	215	12/20/1981	7	Texas
82 Witten, Jason	TE	6-5	262	05/06/1982	8	Tennessee

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
72 Bowen, Stephen	DE	6-5	306	03/28/1984	5	Hofstra
92 Dixon, Marcus	DE	6-4	285	09/16/1984	1	Hampton
97 Hatcher, Jason	DE	6-6	304	07/13/1982	5	Grambling State
91 Ladouceur, L.P.	DE	6-4	256	03/13/1981	6	California
99 Olshansky, Igor	DE	6-6	315	05/03/1982	7	Oregon
90 Ratliff, Jay	DT	6-4	302	08/29/1981	6	Auburn
95 Siavii, Junior	DT	6-5	318	11/14/1978	5	Oregon
96 Spears, Marcus	DE	6-4	309	03/08/1983	6	LSU

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20 Ball, Alan	CB	6-1	188	03/29/1985	3	Illinois
29 Floyd, Marquis	CB	6-0	190	03/17/1980	2	West Georgia
27 Gordon, Cletis	CB	6-1	197	04/23/1983	5	Jackson State
36 Hamlin, Michael	S	6-2	214	11/21/1985	2	Clemson
21 Jenkins, Mike	CB	5-10	198	03/22/1985	3	South Florida
41 Newman, Terence	CB	5-11	190	09/04/1978	8	Kansas State
32 Scandrick, Orlando	CB	5-10	192	02/10/1987	3	Boise State
43 Sensabaugh, Gerald	S	6-0	210	06/13/1983	7	North Carolina
25 Watkins, Pat	S	6-5	218	12/18/1982	5	Florida State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
51 Brooking, Keith	LB	6-2	241	10/30/1975	13	Georgia Tech
57 Butler, Victor	LB	6-2	248	07/29/1987	2	Oregon State
55 Hodge, Stephen	LB	6-0	238	07/17/1987	1	TCU
56 James, Bradie	LB	6-2	245	01/17/1981	8	LSU
98 Johnson, Curtis	LB	6-3	237	02/16/1985	3	Clark Atlanta
53 Octavien, Steve	LB	6-0	246	11/25/1984	2	Nebraska
93 Spencer, Anthony	LB	6-3	255	01/23/1984	4	Purdue
94 Ware, DeMarcus	LB	6-4	262	07/31/1982	6	Troy
59 Williams, Brandon	LB	6-3	248	06/21/1988	1	Texas Tech
58 Williams, Jason	LB	6-1	246	02/21/1986	2	Western Illinois
52 Williams, Leon	LB	6-2	250	07/30/1983	5	Miami (FL)
50 Woods, Donovan	LB	6-2	230	07/27/1985	3	Oklahoma State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
18 Buehler, David	K	6-2	228	02/05/1987	2	USC
5 Hughes, Connor	K	5-10	172	10/04/1983	1	Virginia
1 McBriar, Mat	P	6-1	220	07/08/1979	7	Hawaii

» WADE PHILLIPS, *Head coach*

Jason Garrett, assistant head coach/offensive coordinator; **Brian Stewart**, defensive coordinator; **Joe Decamillis**, special teams coordinator; **Hudson Houck**, offensive line; **Skip Peete**, running backs; **John Garrett**, tight ends; **Ray Sherman**, wide receivers; **Wade Wilson**, quarterbacks; **Dave Campo**, secondary; **Brett Maxie**, secondary assistant; **Reggie Herring**, linebackers; **Bobby King**, linebackers assistant/defensive quality control; **Todd Grantham**, defensive line

was named the starter, Jenkins didn't seem interested in giving up the job.

Jenkins had five interceptions and played strong against the run using his long arms and physical nature, and had a swagger he didn't show as a rookie.

More importantly, he teamed with Newman to give Dallas one of the league's best cornerback tandems. And that's not including Scandrick, who improved during the season and played well in the slot.

Gerald Sensabaugh will be fine at free safety because he excels in coverage, but the Cowboys' biggest question will be at strong safety after they released Ken Hamlin, who had only one interception and four pass deflections the past two seasons.

Hamlin did a good job of making adjustments in the defensive backfield, but the Cowboys are looking for a playmaker on a unit that generated just 21 turnovers, 10 fumbles and 11 interceptions in 2009. **GRADE: B**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

WADE PHILLIPS

The only head coach who's a defensive specialist in the division, Phillips runs an aggressive 3-4 scheme that is designed to pressure quarterbacks. The Cowboys have finished in the top 10 in sacks in each of the last two seasons.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mike Vanderjagt burned owner Jerry Jones, so he has no desire to pay a kicker big money.

Now he's toying with the idea of letting kickoff specialist David Buehler and Connor Hughes compete for the job.

Neither has ever made a field goal in the NFL, and it's hard to believe Jones would enter the season without a proven kicker, but he seems determined to do it.

Punter Mat McBriar is outstanding, averaging 45.1 yards per punt in 2009. He also dropped 38 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

Crayton is a solid punt return specialist who consistently catches the ball, but he doesn't provide much of a big-play threat. Felix Jones bombed as a kick return man last season.

Long snapper L.P. Ladouceur has emerged as one of the most consistent snappers in the league. He's rarely off his target and gives McBriar and the kicker an opportunity to succeed. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

The Cowboys should be one of the NFC's best teams and contend for home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Dallas has a versatile offense and a strong defense that pressures the quarterback and stops the run.

With this roster, the Cowboys enter 2010 believing they can compete with the league's best teams and hope to become the first team in NFL history to play a Super Bowl in its home stadium.

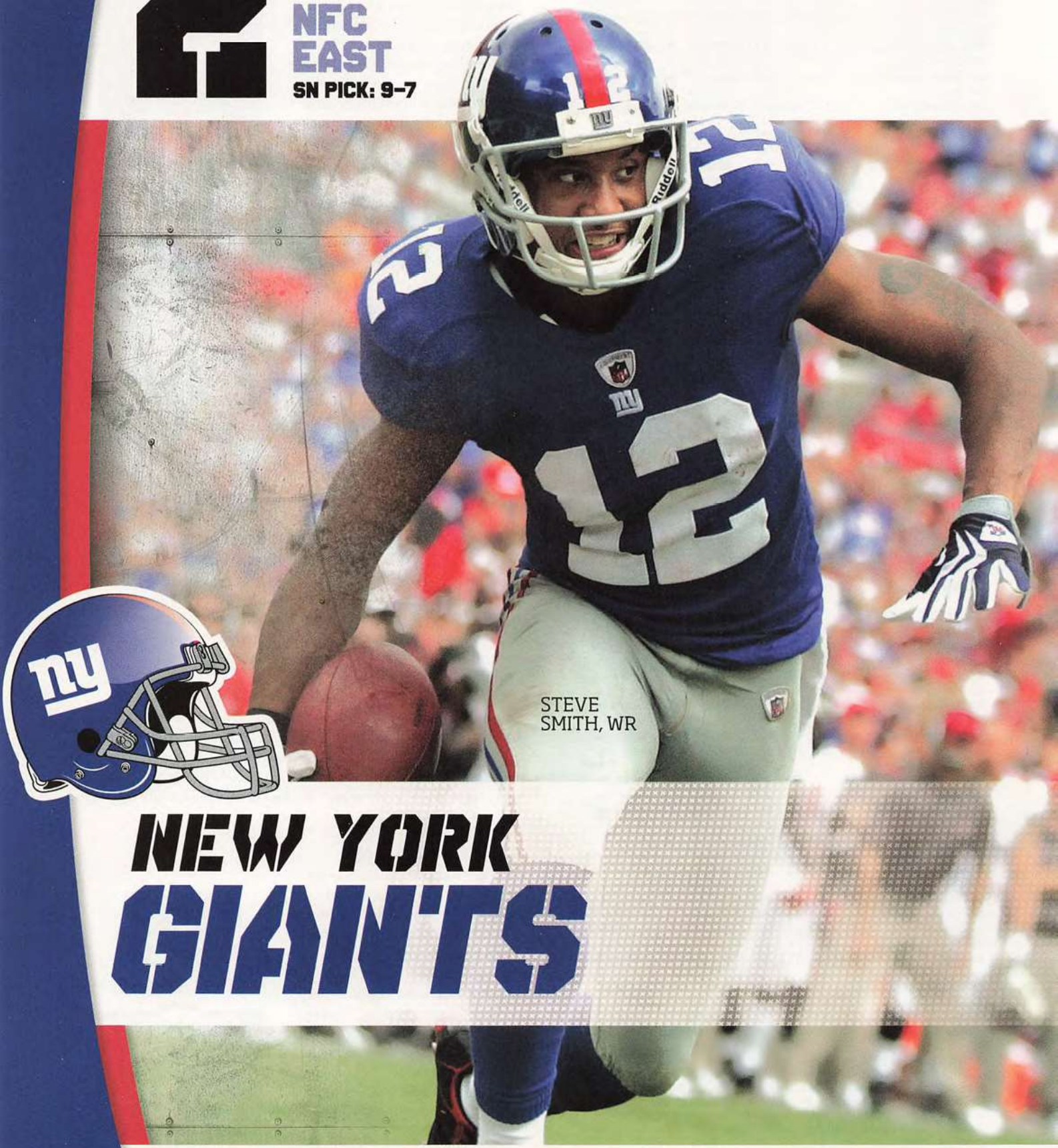
94

FINAL GRADE

2

NFC EAST

SN PICK: 9–7



STEVE SMITH, WR

NEW YORK GIANTS

Giant strides on defense must be made for a playoff return

By Paul Schwartz, *New York Post*

Are they what they have been for several years or what they were down the stretch of the 2009 season?

The Giants are anxious to prove they are once again a contender and resemble more closely the team that won their first five games in 2009 and not the one that slumped to an 8-8 record and missed the playoffs for the first time in five years. The defense performed at historically bad levels and has been reshuffled, with a new coordinator among the changes.

An offense that once revolved around a cohesive line and punishing attack has increasingly leaned more heavily on Eli Manning and a group of young, promising receivers. It is hard to believe but true that Tom Coughlin—who is just three years removed from winning the Super Bowl—probably needs to push the Giants back into the playoffs in order to solidify his job security.

OFFENSE

The Giants prefer a balanced attack and put a great deal on Manning's plate. Coordinator Kevin Gilbride likes to take shots downfield, does not usually call for a great deal of high-percentage throws and is always looking for matchup advantages on the outside. Much is predicated on the inside running of Brandon Jacobs to open things up for the receivers. Even though the Giants are considered a running team, Gilbride often tries to establish the pass first and then set up the run.

Quarterbacks Eli Manning had his best season from a statistical standpoint (27 TD passes, 62.3 completion percentage, 4,021 passing yards) and his best work may have been shepherding the group of young receivers. Manning showed trust in a group of unproven players and was rewarded with more big plays than any other season in his career.

Manning never misses a game and he gained a great deal of admiration for the way he battled through plantar fasciitis without missing a start. His accuracy and command of the offense continued to improve, as did his low-key leadership skills. He has always been strong in the two-minute drill or down the stretch of games but Manning had no answers late last season as the entire offense sagged, and he continues to be a below-average passer in the red zone, as his lack of speed and inability to present a run threat makes him a stationary pocket passer.

After two years, backup David Carr left via free agency and signed with the 49ers, prompting the Giants to sign Jim Sorgi, who for the past six years has backed up another Manning—Indianapolis' Peyton. Sorgi figures to have the edge in a competition with second-year pro Rhett Bomar for the No. 2 spot behind Manning, who has not missed a start in his career. **GRADE: A-**

Running backs After leading the league in rushing two years ago, the Giants took a big step back in 2009. Jacobs was bothered most of the season with a nagging knee problem and his production (835 yards, 5 TDs) took a steep decline. He did not run with the same authority, was not strong in short-yardage situations and, at 264 pounds, did not provide the punishing dimension to the attack the Giants have come to expect. Jacobs averaged only 3.7 yards per attempt in 2009 after averaging five yards a carry in each of the past two seasons.

Ahmad Bradshaw (778, 7 TDs) is a dynamic runner who is stronger than he looks but at times was slowed by cracked bones in both feet and bone spurs in his right ankle that forced him to miss a great deal of practice time. He underwent

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

TERRELL THOMAS — **CB**

Thomas wasn't expected to be a starter in 2009 but he started every game because of lingering hamstring problems with Aaron Ross. Even with Ross back and healthy, it won't be easy to move Thomas out of the lineup.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Eli Manning Jim Sorgi
FB	Madison Hedgecock
RB	Brandon Jacobs Ahmad Bradshaw
LT	David Diehl Will Beatty
LG	Rich Seubert Kevin Boothe
C	Shaun O'Hara Adam Koets
RG	Chris Snee Mitch Petrus
RT	Kareem McKenzie Will Beatty
TE	Kevin Boss Travis Beckum
WR	Steve Smith Domenik Hixo
WR	Hakeem Nicks Mario Manningham
DEFENSE	
DE	Justin Tuck Jason Pierre-Pau
DT	Barry Cofield Jay Alford
DT	Chris Canty Rocky Bernard
DE	Osi Umenyiora Mathias Kiwanuka
SLB	Clint Sintim Chase Blackburn
MLB	Jonathan Goff Gerris Wilkinson
WLB	Michael Boley Bryan Kehl
LCB	Corey Webster Bruce Johnson
SS	Kenny Phillips Michael Johnson
FS	Antrel Rolle Deon Grant
RCB	Terrell Thomas Aaron Ross
SPECIALISTS	
K	Lawrence Tynes
P	Matt Dodge
KR	Domenik Hixon
PR	Domenik Hixon
LS	Zak DeOssie

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 8-8 HOME: 4-4

ONLINE
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www.giants.com

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Training Camp: University of Albany, Albany, N.Y.; 518-442-7369

OPPOSITE PAGE: CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Giants)

"The wide receivers are amazing; I like everything about them. There's no divas in the bunch. I'm not crazy about the running backs. They got a real decision on the offensive line: Are (they) going to move David Diehl inside and put Will Beatty at left tackle and try to get another year (out of) Kareem McKenzie? I would try Beatty at left tackle, move Diehl to left guard and let Kareem McKenzie battle for the right tackle job. ...

"I like Kevin Boss a lot but they could use another tight end. The offense, if Eli Manning has another good year, will be all right. ...

"The defense is just a huge, huge problem. Perry Fewell will help in that regard, make them a more viable unit than they were at the end of the season when they just gave up. Osi Umenyiora a year back from injury should help, but the linebacker crew is horrendous. I like what they did at safety with the addition of Antrel Rolle."

three offseason surgeries to correct the problems.

Neither Bradshaw (21 receptions) nor Jacobs (18) added much as a pass catcher out of the backfield. D.J. Ware was supposed to be an option as a third-down back but had an injury-filled and ineffective season, while Andre Brown missed his entire rookie year after suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸▸ The departures of Amani Toomer and Plaxico Burress took virtually all of the experience and physical dominance away from this position, and many believed it would create a talent vacuum. Instead, a young group played well and provided more big plays than the Giants are accustomed to getting.

In his third year, Steve Smith had the most prolific season in franchise history with a team-record 107 catches. Smith also had 1,220 yards and seven TDs and showed an uncanny ability to get open over the middle, especially on third down.

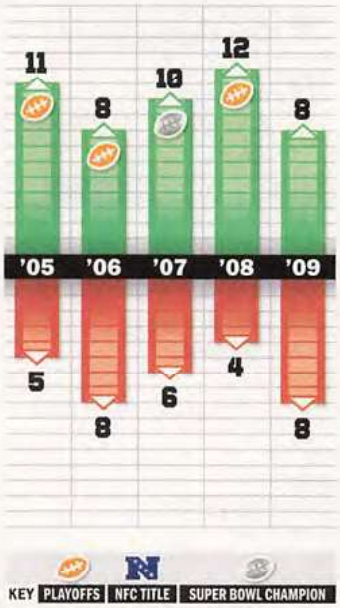
Hakeem Nicks (790 yards, 6 TDs) enjoyed one of the best rookie seasons of any Giants receiver, averaging 16.8 yards per catch while flashing breakaway speed. Mario Manningham (822, 5) enjoyed a breakthrough second NFL season and has the best moves of any player on the team, but he's also inconsistent with his route running and had occasional drops.

The Giants expect big things from towering Ramses Barden, who had a learning year on the bench as a rookie. Tight end Kevin Boss (567 yards, 5 TDs) is a steady target with an ability to get downfield but needs to be targeted more in the end zone. **GRADE: B+**

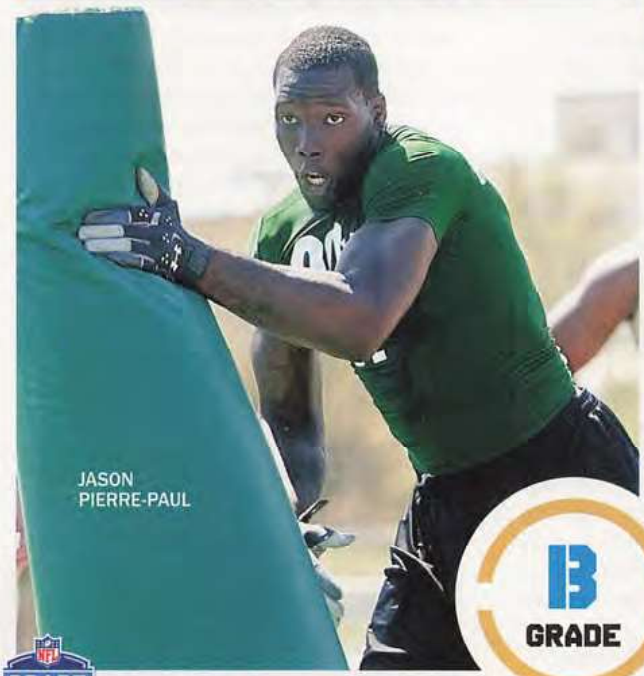
Offensive line ▸▸ For the first time in a few years this unit showed signs of faltering, with injuries and on-field struggles for right tackle Kareem McKenzie and left guard Rich Seubert. Manning was sacked a career-high 30 times and the run-blocking regressed, as the Giants averaged only 4.1 yards per rushing attempt, down from five yards in 2008.

Right guard Chris Snee did not play up to the Pro Bowl level he displayed the year before. The most consistent player was

5-YEAR RECORD: 49–31



DRAFT REPORT



B
GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	15	Jason Pierre-Paul	DE	6-5	270	South Florida
2	14	Linval Joseph	DT	6-5	328	East Carolina
3	12	Chad Jones	S	6-2	221	LSU
4	17	Phillip Dillard	LB	6-0	245	Nebraska
5	16	Mitch Petrus	G	6-3	310	Arkansas
6	15	Adrian Tracy	LB	6-3	248	William & Mary
7	14	Matt Dodge	P	6-2	224	East Carolina

Despite opposing views, the Giants had a great first pick in defensive end **Jason Pierre-Paul**. He's an elite pass rusher at a time when pass rushers are hard to find. Still, he's raw in technique, having only played one year of Division I football. Less risky was second-round pick **Linval Joseph**, who should contribute at defensive tackle in 2010 and might become the Giants' biggest playmaker on the defensive line.

Taking another risk, the Giants chose safety **Chad Jones** in Round 3, but he is so inconsistent you never know who will show up—the potential Pro Bowl player or the nonfactor who looks lost on the field. In the fourth round, the Giants addressed a position of need and grabbed linebacker **Phillip Dillard**. He will fight for a starting job in training camp.

With Jeff Feagles' retirement, the Giants needed a strong-legged replacement and got him in the seventh round with **Matt Dodge**, who should win the job as a rookie.

ZUMA / NEWSCOM

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	23-17	Washington Redskins
09/20	W	33-31	at Dallas Cowboys
09/27	W	24-0	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/04	W	27-16	at Kansas City Chiefs
10/11	W	44-7	Oakland Raiders
10/18	L	27-48	at New Orleans Saints
10/25	L	17-24	Arizona Cardinals
11/01	L	17-40	at Philadelphia Eagles
11/08	L	20-21	San Diego Chargers
11/22	W	34-31	Atlanta Falcons
11/26	L	6-26	at Denver Broncos
12/06	W	31-24	Dallas Cowboys
12/13	L	38-45	Philadelphia Eagles
12/21	W	45-12	at Washington Redskins
12/27	L	9-41	Carolina Panthers
01/03	L	7-44	at Minnesota Vikings

WON 8, LOST 8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jacobs	22	835	3.7	31	5
Bradshaw	16	778	4.8	38	7
Ware	13	73	5.6	14	1
Manning	17	65	3.8	14	0
Johnson	13	43	3.3	11	0
Carr	9	27	3.0	12	1
Boss	1	16	16.0	16	0
Nicks	2	8	4.0	9	0
Feagles	1	-8	-8.0	-8	0
GIANTS	**443**	**1837**	**4.1**	**38**	**14**
OPPONENTS	423	1773	4.2	66	21

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith	107	1220	11.4	51	7
Manningham	57	822	14.4	49	5
Nicks	47	790	16.8	68	6
Boss	42	567	13.5	35	5
Bradshaw	21	207	9.9	55	0
Jacobs	18	184	10.2	74	1
Hixon	15	187	12.5	61	1
Hagan	8	101	12.6	23	1
Beckum	8	55	6.9	15	0
Johnson	5	32	6.4	14	0
Hedgecock	4	23	5.8	9	1
Ware	3	15	5.0	14	0
Moss	1	18	18.0	18	1
Barden	1	16	16.0	16	0
Pascoe	1	9	9.0	9	0
GIANTS	**338**	**4246**	**12.6**	**74**	**28**
OPPONENTS	314	3425	10.9	60	31

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Manning	509	317	4021	27	14
Carr	33	21	225	1	0
GIANTS	**542**	**338**	**4246**	**28**	**14**
OPPONENTS	498	314	3662	31	13

SACKS GIANTS 32, OPPONENTS 32

Umenyiora 7, Tuck 6, Kiwanuka 3, Clark 2, Robbins 2, Thomas 1, Boley 1, Johnson 1, Pierce 1, Rouse 1, Johnson 1, Cofield 1, Bernard 1, Goff 1, Sintim 1, Tollefson 1, Blackburn 0.5, Canty 0.5

center Shaun O'Hara, who is one of the most vocal leaders on the team. Left tackle David Diehl is a fine technician and never misses a play, but he is not dominant at his position and his future could be at right tackle or guard if the Giants believe Will Beatty is ready to handle a starting spot in his second season. **GRADE: B**

DEFENSE

The new defensive coordinator, Perry Fewell, ran a version of the cover 2 defense with the Bills, but he is expected to play more man coverage with the Giants. Much of what this team does is predicated on pressure applied up front by pass-rushing defensive ends, as the cornerbacks are usually in press coverage and can only hold up for a certain period of time. The safeties are often interchangeable and the linebackers have rarely been three-down players in recent years and are not asked to blitz very often.

Defensive line In 2009, this position was thought to be stocked with talent but did not produce as expected. Justin Tuck was bothered all season with shoulder issues; Osi Umenyiora was not fully recovered from 2008 knee surgery and eventually benched; promising tackle Jay Alford was gone for the entire season following knee surgery; and veteran free-agent acquisitions Chris Canty and Rocky Bernard contributed little because of nagging injuries.

If the physical wounds and emotional baggage (Umenyiora said he'd rather retire than be a backup player again) heal, this unit can again return to Super Bowl form. Tuck, Umenyiora and Mathias Kiwanuka are all talented pass rushers and need to stay healthy for fourth-quarter effectiveness. In addition, the Giants added to their stable with first-round pick Jason Pierre-Paul, who was labeled by some as the best pure pass rusher in the NFL draft.

Canty, Bernard, Alford and Barry Cofield provide a rotation at defensive tackle. Cofield makes his living as a run stopper but as a whole, this team lost its way when it came to stopping an opponent's ground game. Canty must prove he can get the job done as a 4-3 tackle. **GRADE: B+**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

TOM COUGHLIN

Coughlin insists on a balanced offense but is not reluctant to take shots downfield in the passing game. He's not a gambler in any sense of the word and will often punt rather than go for it on fourth down. Since winning the Super Bowl, Coughlin has softened a bit but remains a no-nonsense coach with demanding expectations.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	366	8
RUSHING	114.8	17
PASSING	251.2	11
SCORING	402	8
PUNT RETURNS	10.9	7
KICK RETURNS	20.9	28
RED ZONE TD %	48.2	21t
TOTAL DEFENSE	324.9	13t
AGAINST RUSH	110.8	14
AGAINST PASS	214.1	15
POINTS ALLOWED	427	30
INTERCEPTIONS	13	22t
SACKS	32	18t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-7	24t

GIANTS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Michael Strahan** *(1993-2007)* — **141.5**
2. **Lawrence Taylor** *(1981-93)* — **132.5**
3. **Leonard Marshall** *(1983-92)* — **79.5**

Linebackers For the past five years Antonio Pierce made the defensive calls and patrolled the middle, but he was released in the offseason, and with him goes a great deal of leadership and intelligence.

Linebacker has been a problem position for the Giants of late, with no real playmaker emerging on the weak side. The Giants hope Michael Boley, who is coming off an injury-filled first year with the team, surfaces as not only the top performer but also someone the others can rally around.

Otherwise, there's a group of unproven youngsters who must develop quickly. Jonathan Goff will be given a shot to replace Pierce and was up-and-down in that role down the stretch last season. The Giants hope fourth-round pick Phillip Dillard of

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Carolina
SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 2 @ Indianapolis
SEPT. 19 | 8:20 — SCORE

WEEK 3 Tennessee
SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 4 Chicago
OCT. 3 | 8:20 — SCORE

WEEK 5 @ Houston
OCT. 10 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 6 Detroit
OCT. 17 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 7 @ Dallas
OCT. 25 | 8:30 — SCORE

WEEK 8 OPEN DATE

WEEK 9 @ Seattle
NOV. 7 | 4:05 — SCORE

WEEK 10 Dallas
NOV. 14 | 4:15 — SCORE

WEEK 11 @ Philadelphia
NOV. 21 | 8:20 — SCORE

WEEK 12 Jacksonville
NOV. 28 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 13 Washington
DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 14 @ Minnesota
DEC. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 15 Philadelphia
DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE

WEEK 16 @ Green Bay
DEC. 26 | 4:15 — SCORE

WEEK 17 @ Washington
JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Nebraska can provide some competition as a rookie.

Clint Sintim is a natural strongside 'backer but didn't do much as a rookie. He'll be given a chance for an expanded role and could find his way into the starting lineup if he shows the necessary improvement. Chase Blackburn is a versatile reserve who can play all three spots. The coaching staff hasn't given up on Bryan Kehl, but in his first two seasons he has lacked the aggressiveness required at the position. **GRADE: C**

Secondary ▸▸ This unit took the brunt of the abuse for the dramatic defensive downturn in 2009, and with good reason.

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

S Antrel Rolle *(FA/Cardinals)*, **QB Jim Sorgi** *(FA/Colts)*, **P Jy Bond** *(FA/Australia)*, **S Deon Grant** *(FA/Seahawks)*

SUBTRACTIONS

QB David Carr *(FA/49ers)*, **P Jeff Feagles** *(retired)*, **DT Fred Robbins** *(FA/Rams)*, **CB Kevin Dockery** *(FA/Giants)*, **S Aaron Rouse** *(FA)*

Star-in-waiting safety Kenny Phillips missed the last 14 games following knee surgery, a huge loss that was never overcome. Cornerback Aaron Ross missed most of the season with hamstring injuries and was moved to safety upon his return, where he was not effective.

The pressure fell on cornerback Corey Webster to hold up, but he struggled through a subpar season, as did safety Michael Johnson, who was plagued by assignment errors. Phillips is expected back but is not guaranteed to make a full recovery, which is why the team moved quickly in free agency to sign former Cardinal Antrel Rolle, who will add athleticism and a playmaker to the back end of the defense. The signing of veteran safety Deon Grant also provides insurance.

Amid the wreckage of last season, cornerback Terrell Thomas moved into the starting lineup and emerged as a player the team will build around, most likely moving Ross into a nickel back role. If Webster

CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... JUSTIN TUCK

(how a rival sizes him up)

"They need a healthy Tuck again because he's one of the better players in the division. I saw a guy last season who was not as good as the year before. He did not have the leverage, the push that he had the year before, he couldn't make a good contact, take-on block. I'll write that off to a bum shoulder. He's the best defensive end on the team. ...

"Osi Umenyiora is a real detriment against the run, where Tuck is the closest thing they've got to Michael Strahan. He plays the run real well, he gets a good pass-rush going, you can move him inside. ..."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Bomar, Rhett	QB	6-2	215	07/02/1985	1	Sam Houston State
10 Manning, Eli	QB	6-4	225	01/03/1981	7	Ole Miss
12 Sorgi, Jim	QB	6-5	196	12/03/1980	7	Wisconsin

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
65 Beatty, William	T	6-6	307	03/02/1985	2	Connecticut
78 Bender, Jacob	T	6-6	315	04/25/1985	3	Nicholls State
77 Boothe, Kevin	G	6-5	315	07/05/1983	5	Cornell
66 Diehl, David	T	6-5	319	09/15/1980	8	Illinois
61 Koets, Adam	T	6-5	300	01/07/1984	4	Oregon State
67 McKenzie, Kareem	T	6-6	327	05/24/1979	10	Penn State
60 O'Hara, Shaun	C	6-3	303	06/23/1977	11	Rutgers
64 Riley, Rueben	G	6-4	320	09/20/1984	1	Michigan
69 Seubert, Rich	G	6-3	310	03/30/1979	10	Western Illinois
76 Snee, Chris	G	6-3	317	01/18/1982	7	Boston College
68 Taylor, Herb	T	6-3	295	09/22/1984	4	TCU
79 Whimper, Guy	T	6-5	302	05/21/1983	4	East Carolina

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Bradshaw, Ahmad	RB	5-9	198	03/19/1986	4	Marshall
22 Brown, Andre	RB	6-0	228	12/15/1986	1	N.C. State
39 Hedgecock, Madison	RB	6-3	266	08/27/1981	6	North Carolina
27 Jacobs, Brandon	RB	6-4	264	07/06/1982	6	Southern Illinois
33 Johnson, Gartrell	RB	5-11	218	06/21/1986	2	Colorado State
48 Johnson, Jerome	RB	6-0	258	01/19/1985	1	Nevada
28 Ware, Danny	RB	6-0	234	02/18/1985	4	Georgia

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Barden, Ramses	WR	6-6	227	01/01/1986	2	Cal Poly
47 Beckum, Travis	TE	6-4	235	01/24/1987	2	Wisconsin
89 Boss, Kevin	TE	6-6	253	01/11/1984	4	Western Oregon
46 Butler, Carson	TE	6-5	250	08/21/1987	1	Michigan
85 Chandler, Scott	TE	6-7	272	07/23/1985	4	Iowa
80 Hagan, Derek	WR	6-2	215	09/21/1984	5	Arizona State
87 Hixon, Domenik	WR	6-2	182	10/08/1984	5	Akron
82 Manningham, Mario	WR	5-11	183	05/25/1986	3	Michigan
83 Moss, Sinorice	WR	5-8	185	12/28/1983	5	Miami (FL)
88 Nicks, Hakeem	WR	6-1	212	01/14/1988	2	North Carolina
86 Pascoe, Bear	TE	6-5	260	02/23/1986	1	Fresno State
12 Smith, Steve	WR	5-11	195	05/06/1985	4	USC

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
93 Alford, Jay	DT	6-3	304	05/28/1983	3	Penn State
95 Bernard, Rocky	DT	6-3	308	04/19/1979	9	Texas A&M
99 Canty, Chris	DT	6-7	299	11/10/1982	6	Virginia
96 Cofield, Barry	DT	6-4	306	03/19/1984	5	Northwestern
74 Hendricks, Dwayne	DT	6-4	300	03/17/1986	1	Miami (FL)
63 Hill, Tommie	DE	6-6	245	11/28/1985	1	Colorado State
94 Kiwanuka, Mathias	DE	6-5	265	03/08/1983	5	Boston College
71 Tollefson, Dave	DE	6-4	255	07/10/1982	4	Northwest Missouri St.
91 Tuck, Justin	DE	6-5	274	03/29/1983	6	Notre Dame
72 Umenyiora, Osi	DE	6-3	261	11/16/1981	8	Troy

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
45 Anderson, Vince	CB	6-2	205	12/08/1984	1	Webber International
41 Brown, C.C.	S	6-0	208	01/27/1983	6	Louisiana-Lafayette
37 Brown, Courtney	S	6-1	204	02/10/1984	3	Cal Poly
24 Grant, Deon	S	6-2	215	03/14/1979	11	Tennessee
25 Johnson, Bruce	CB	5-11	182	12/18/1987	2	Miami (FL)
29 Johnson, D.J.	CB	6-2	200	11/07/1985	2	Jackson State
20 Johnson, Michael	S	6-2	207	05/09/1984	4	Arizona
21 Phillips, Kenny	S	6-2	210	11/24/1986	3	Miami (FL)
30 Rashad, Sha'reff	S	6-0	197	10/06/1986	1	UCF
21 Rolle, Antrel	S	6-0	208	12/16/1982	6	Miami (FL)
31 Ross, Aaron	CB	6-0	197	09/15/1982	4	Texas
24 Thomas, Terrell	CB	6-0	199	01/08/1985	3	USC
23 Webster, Corey	CB	6-0	202	03/02/1982	6	LSU

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
57 Blackburn, Chase	LB	6-3	247	06/10/1983	6	Akron
52 Boley, Michael	LB	6-3	223	08/24/1982	6	Southern Miss
51 DeOssie, Zak	LB	6-4	249	05/24/1984	4	Brown
54 Goff, Jonathan	LB	6-2	236	12/12/1985	3	Vanderbilt
43 Ingram, Kenny	LB	6-6	229	02/27/1986	1	Florida State
53 Kehl, Bryan	LB	6-2	237	06/16/1984	3	Brigham Young
97 Sintim, Clint	LB	6-3	256	02/21/1986	2	Virginia
59 Wilkinson, Gerris	LB	6-3	231	04/05/1983	5	Georgia Tech

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Bond, Jy	P	6-2	212	04/22/1979	None	None
3 Swank, Sam	K	6-0	201	10/05/1985	1	Wake Forest
9 Tynes, Lawrence	K	6-1	202	06/03/1978	7	Troy

TOM COUGHLIN, *Head coach*
Kevin Gilbride, offensive coordinator; **Perry Fewell,** defensive coordinator; **Tom Quinn,** special teams coordinator; **Pat Flaherty,** offensive line; **Jack Bicknell Jr.,** offensive line assistant; **Jerald Ingram,** running backs; **Mike Pope,** tight ends; **Sean Ryan,** wide receivers; **Mike Sullivan,** quarterbacks; **Peter Giunta,** secondary/corners; **David Merritt,** secondary/safties; **Jim Herrmann,** linebackers; **Robert Nunn,** defensive line; **Thomas McGaughey,** special teams assistant

returns to form and Phillips is back to full health, this unit could make an immediate turnaround. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Wideout Domenik Hixon broke out as a dangerous punt returner last year, averaging 15.1 yards and returning a 79-yard punt for a touchdown. The Giants could not find a reliable kick returner last season, and that area remains a weakness. Linebackers Chase Blackburn, Bryan Kehl and Gerris Wilkinson lead the coverage units but there is no real speedster able to track the ball and make the tackle downfield.

For the first time in 22 seasons, Jeff Feagles struggled to punt the ball out of bounds and beyond 40 yards on a consistent basis, which led to the 44-year-old retiring in the offseason.

Seventh-round pick Matt Dodge of East Carolina is a leading candidate to replace him. Lawrence Tynes hit 27 of his 32 field goal attempts but the coaching staff is not comfortable with his accuracy, while his kickoffs leave something to be desired. **GRADE: C+**

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Steve Smith emerged as an elite receiver last season, and owners in point-per-reception leagues should have him no lower than No. 5 in their WR rankings.

BUY
Ahmad Bradshaw
RB

SELL
Brandon Jacobs
RB

SLEEPER
Hakeem Nicks
WR

BOTTOM LINE

The Giants are determined to show that 2009 was an aberration, and they probably have enough talent to once again make a strong playoff push. Still, major questions must be answered. The defense must prove it can regain its pass-rush prowess and has the skill level to do so. If healthy, the secondary is more than adequate but the linebacker corps looks to be shaky.

Manning is coming off his finest season and continues to emerge as a franchise quarterback, but too much of a burden was put on him last season because of reduced effectiveness in the running game. The identity of the Giants as hard-nosed on both sides of the ball took a beating in 2009 and getting that back is Coughlin's greatest challenge.

86
FINAL GRADE

DOWN
STOCK REPORT

3

NFC EAST

SN PICK: 9-7

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

All eyes now on Kolb as Eagles enter post-McNabb era

By Geoff Mosher, *Wilmington (Del.) News-Journal*

The Eagles won't publicly admit it, but 2010 could be looked at as a rebuilding season—a crossroads for a franchise that's moving beyond franchise legend Donovan McNabb and rolling the dice with the unproven Kevin Kolb. The team made the playoffs in eight of McNabb's 11 years and was favored nearly every time they stepped on the field thanks to the six-time Pro Bowler, who was often surrounded by a veteran corps.

But Reid and the front office, now led by first-year general manager Howie Roseman, slashed and burned the roster after their 34-14 wild-card loss to Dallas, severing ties with more than a half-dozen players over or near 30, including two-time Pro Bowl running back Brian Westbrook, once considered the epicenter of the offensive attack.

The club is loaded with young playmakers, including Pro Bowl wideout DeSean Jackson and rising second-year stars in LeSean McCoy and Jeremy Maclin, but the front office is attempting to rebuild a porous defense on the fly.

OFFENSE

Few teams pass more frequently than the Eagles, and that won't change with Kolb behind center. The offense is still centered on creating mismatches in the passing game and getting ahead through the air, then running in the fourth quarter. But it's not a true West Coast scheme. Coordinator Marty Mornhinweg likes to dial up deep passes and isn't afraid to dig into his bag of trick plays and unconventional schemes.

Quarterbacks The world is about to discover if Kolb is the next Aaron Rodgers or if he'll follow the failed NFL route of fellow Houston Cougar David Klingler. Kolb served a three-year apprenticeship to McNabb, but they're not carbon copies. Kolb's arm strength is nowhere near McNabb's but he can make any throw, and his accuracy and quick release are stronger attributes than his predecessor's.

Kolb passed for more than 300 yards in his first two NFL starts last season, becoming the first QB in NFL history to accomplish that feat, but there's a big difference between spot-starting and taking the wheel for an entire season.

How Kolb handles the fishbowl environment of a football-crazed city will go a long way in determining if he can succeed for the long haul. Michael Vick gives the Eagles a strong veteran backup if Kolb suffers an injury, as well as another season of Wildcat options. Vick only made sporadic contributions last year in his first season but is expected to play a more significant role in 2010. **GRADE: C+**

Running backs Westbrook passed the torch rather quickly to McCoy, who set a club rookie record for rushing yards (637). McCoy has dynamic change-of-pace moves, an explosive first step, solid burst and excellent hands out of the backfield, but it's unfair to expect him to be Westbrook's equivalent.

After starting four games last year, McCoy hit the weight room hard this offseason to prepare for the responsibility of being the team's primary ballcarrier, but he also needs to refine his ball security and patience.

To complement McCoy, the team signed free agent Mike Bell, a between-the-tackles runner who can help the team in short yardage and goal-line situations.

In the offseason, the team rewarded All-Pro fullback Leonard Weaver with the highest contract in NFL history for his position. Weaver isn't your typical fullback. He's an excellent receiver and strong runner who can be a primary weapon in some schemes and formations. **GRADE: B-**

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

STACY ANDREWS G

Andrews was an abject failure in his first season, but he'll reclaim the job in 2010. His knee is 100 percent and he'll have the spring drills and a full training camp to fully adjust to the Eagles' blocking schemes.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Kevin Kolb Michael Vick
FB	Leonard Weaver Dwayne Wright
RB	LeSean McCoy Mike Bell
LT	Jason Peters Todd Herremans
LG	Todd Herremans Mike McGlynn
C	Jamaal Jackson Nick Cole
RG	Stacy Andrews Max Jean-Gilles
RT	Winston Justice Stacy Andrews
TE	Brent Celek Cornelius Ingram
WR	DeSean Jackson Jason Avant
WR	Jeremy Maclin Hank Baskett
	DEFENSE
LE	Darryl Tapp Brandon Graham
LT	Mike Patterson Trevor Laws
RT	Brodrick Bunkley Antonio Dixon
RE	Trent Cole Victor Abiamiri
SLB	Moise Fokou Omar Gaither
MLB	Stewart Bradley Joe Mays
WLB	Akeem Jordan Tracy White
LCB	Asante Samuel Joselio Hanson
SS	Quintin Mikell Quintin Demps
FS	Marlin Jackson Nate Allen
RCB	Ellis Hobbs Dimitri Patterson
	SPECIALISTS
K	David Akers
P	Sav Rocca
KR	Quintin Demps
PR	DeSean Jackson
LS	Jon Dorenbos

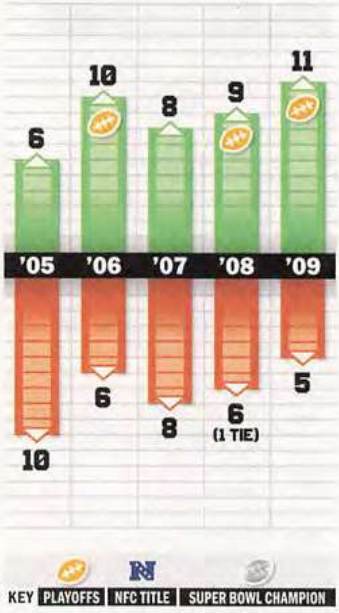
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 11-5 HOME: 6-2

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/eagles
www.philadelphiaeagles.com

STADIUM
Lincoln Financial Field
Capacity: 68,532 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 215-463-5500
Training Camp: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.; 610-758-3000

OPPOSITE: LEON HALIP / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR RECORD: 44-35-1



FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Donovan McNabb's departure is slightly worrisome, but DeSean Jackson did fine in two games without McNabb last year (250 yards, 2 TDs).

BUY
Brent Celek
TE

SELL
Mike Bell
RB

SLEEPER
Kevin Kolb
QB

Receivers ▸▸ The Eagles hope their young tandem of Jackson and Maclin will become the NFL's next prolific 1-2 punch akin to the former Larry Fitzgerald-Anquan Boldin partnership in Arizona or New England's combo of Randy Moss and Wes Welker.

Jackson, entering his third season, is coming off one of the greatest seasons ever by an Eagles receiver and is arguably the NFL's most dangerous home-run hitter. Of his 12 total touchdowns—nine receiving, one rushing and two punt returns—eight were 50 yards or more.

Maclin finished third among NFL rookies with 773 yards along with four touchdown catches. He adjusted into a possession receiver role while Jackson worked the outside routes, but both have deep-strike potential on any play. The attention they command opens the middle for another weapon who emerged last year, tight end Brent Celek (971 yards, 8 TDs).

Slot receiver Jason Avant is an instrumental part of the offense, especially against the blitz. Hank Baskett rejoined the team in the offseason after one year with the Colts. He can play all three receiver positions, makes contributions on special teams and is the tallest of the group, giving the team another red zone option. **GRADE: A-**

Offensive line ▸▸ Coach Andy Reid, a former lineman who preaches continuity up front, is hoping for a bounceback season from this unit after an injury-plagued 2009. All-Pro left tackle Jason Peters struggled to acclimate into the team's blocking scheme in his first year but is a punishing run blocker and should improve his pass protection.

Winston Justice became the team's Cinderella story last season when he took command of the starting right tackle job in place of an injured Shawn Andrews. After making little impact in his first three seasons, Justice earned a contract extension last year and enters this season entrenched as the starter.

Veteran left guard Todd Herremans came back from a severe foot injury in training camp to have his best season. Stacy Andrews, the team's biggest free-agent signing last year, failed to win the starting right guard job. Coming off major knee surgery, Andrews missed the minicamps and, like Peters, struggled to adjust to offensive line coach Juan Castillo's vertical-set blocking schemes. The team expects Andrews to return to form in 2010 and reclaim the job. If he can't, Nick Cole is an adequate fill-in. The versatile Cole started 16 games last season at three different positions.

The biggest question mark is at center, where seven-year veteran Jamaal Jackson is coming off major knee surgery. He's expected to miss the entire preseason to continue his rehab. Mike McGlynn will get looks at center, along with newcomer A.Q. Shipley. **GRADE: C+**

DEFENSE

In his first season as coordinator, Sean McDermott carried over the principles of his late mentor, Jim Johnson, who died of cancer during training camp last year. The

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	357.9	11
RUSHING	102.3	22
PASSING	255.6	10
SCORING	429	5
PUNT RETURNS	13.5	1
KICK RETURNS	20.5	30
RED ZONE TD %	48.1	23t
TOTAL DEFENSE	321.1	12
AGAINST RUSH	104.7	9
AGAINST PASS	216.4	17
POINTS ALLOWED	337	19
INTERCEPTIONS	25	4
SACKS	44	3t
TURNOVER DIFF.	15	2

EAGLES' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Reggie White** *(1985-92)* — 124.0
2. **Clyde Simmons** *(1986-93)* — 76.0
3. **Hugh Douglas** *(1998-2004)* — 54.5

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Eagles)*

"They are very talented defensively. They are very consistent, very physical. They get a good pass rush. They do some odd blitzes and stuff. They are very sound and they have good defensive players. They cause a lot of turnovers defensively, so it is important for us not to give them any breaks ...

"(Their defense presents) unique looks, different things that you don't see every week that you have to prepare for. (They) try to get you free hits on the quarterback ...

"I think they just kind of see what is working (with the blitz). You have to expect that it is coming still but they do a good job of mixing things up, showing blitz and backing out."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	38-10	at Carolina Panthers
09/20	L	22-48	New Orleans Saints
09/27	W	34-14	Kansas City Chiefs
10/11	W	33-14	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/18	L	9-13	at Oakland Raiders
10/26	W	27-17	at Washington Redskins
11/01	W	40-17	New York Giants
11/08	L	16-20	Dallas Cowboys
11/15	L	23-31	at San Diego Chargers
11/22	W	24-20	at Chicago Bears
11/29	W	27-24	Washington Redskins
12/06	W	34-7	at Atlanta Falcons
12/13	W	45-38	at New York Giants
12/20	W	27-13	San Francisco 49ers
12/27	W	30-27	Denver Broncos
01/03	L	0-24	at Dallas Cowboys

WON 11, LOST 5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
McCoy	155	637	4.1	66	4
Weaver	70	323	4.6	41	2
Westbrook	61	274	4.5	25	1
McNabb	37	140	3.8	27	2
Jackson	11	137	12.5	67	1
Vick	24	95	4.0	34	2
Buckley	15	44	2.9	9	1
Kolb	5	-1	-0.2	5	1
Garcia	3	-2	-0.7	0	0
Brown	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
Maclin	2	-7	-3.5	-1	0
EAGLES	**384**	**1637**	**4.3**	**67**	**14**
OPPONENTS	413	1675	4.1	72	11

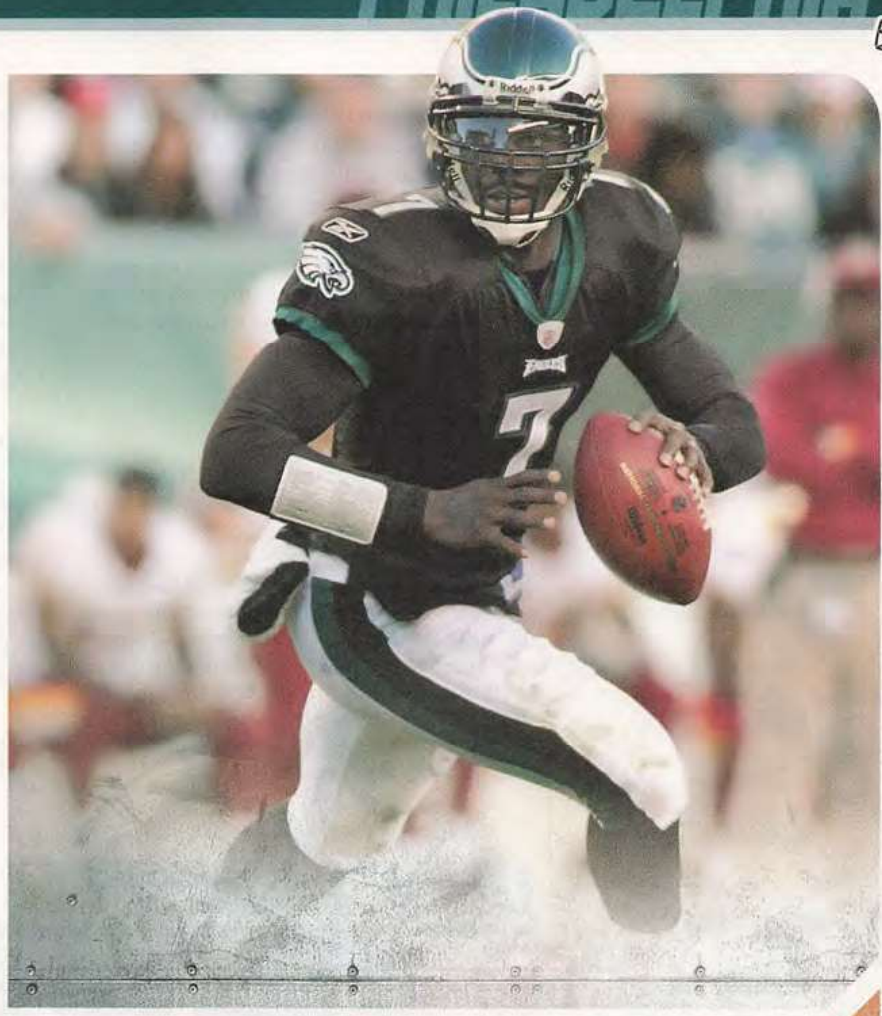
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Celek	76	971	12.8	47	8
Jackson	62	1156	18.6	71	9
Maclin	56	773	13.8	56	4
Avant	41	587	14.3	58	3
McCoy	40	308	7.7	45	0
Westbrook	25	181	7.2	34	1
Weaver	15	140	9.3	59	2
Brown	9	155	17.2	43	0
Curtis	6	77	12.8	19	0
Smith	3	25	8.3	11	0
McNabb	1	1	1.0	1	0
EAGLES	**335**	**4380**	**13.1**	**71**	**27**
OPPONENTS	354	3462	9.8	86	27

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
McNabb	443	267	3553	22	10
Kolb	96	62	741	4	3
Vick	13	6	86	1	0
Westbrook	1	0	0	0	0
EAGLES	**553**	**335**	**4385**	**27**	**13**
OPPONENTS	580	354	3778	27'	25

SACKS — EAGLES 44, OPPONENTS 38

Cole 12.5, Parker 8, Howard 6.5, Clemons 3, Babin 2.5, Abiamiri 2, Gaither 1.5, Patterson 1.5, Bunkley 1, Dixon 1, Gocong 1, Jones 1, Jordan 1, Witherspoon 1, Hanson 0.5

ZUMA / NEWSCOM



THE BOOK ON ... MICHAEL VICK

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Of course, when he is in there, the tough thing about him is you can't view it as what everybody in the league refers to as Wildcat. He is a quarterback. So we have to play conventional calls because he can throw the ball down the field. You have to treat him like a quarterback but he can run a Wildcat-like offense. It is a problem that the college guys face every week. We don't normally see that. When they put a running back in there and take the direct snap, you can have a totally different mindset. They could throw the ball but they rarely do. That is a run call and you are in a run mentality."

Eagles relentlessly attack the quarterback, coming from a variety of angles with a variety of defenders. Almost every year, the Eagles are among the NFL leaders in sacks.

Defensive linemen are rotated frequently to keep legs fresh for the entire game and defensive ends often line up inside at tackle on nickel downs to counter size with speed. Cornerbacks play a physical, bump-and-run coverage and safeties play interchangeably inside and outside the box.

Defensive line ▸▸ The team now has options for a pass-rushing complement to Pro Bowl right defensive end Trent Cole. Darryl Tapp, who was acquired in a trade with Seattle, had 12.5 sacks combined over 2007 and 2008 but last season managed just 2.5. He and the Eagles are hoping his potential is realized in a new environment.

Philadelphia also moved up in the draft to take Brandon Graham with the 13th overall pick. McDermott is big on rotating his linemen, so look for both Tapp and Graham to see significant time.

Veteran Juqua Parker and fourth-year pro Vic Abiamiri will also log plenty of snaps at end, and both can move inside to play tackle in nickel schemes. Parker's eight sacks last year were a career best.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Green Bay
SEPT. 12 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 2 @ Detroit
SEPT. 19 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 3 @ Jacksonville
SEPT. 26 | 4:05
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 4 Washington
OCT. 3 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 5 @ San Francisco
OCT. 10 | 8:20
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 6 Atlanta
OCT. 17 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 7 @ Tennessee
OCT. 24 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 8 OPEN DATE

WEEK 9 Indianapolis
NOV. 7 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 10 @ Washington
NOV. 15 | 8:30
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 11 N.Y. Giants
NOV. 21 | 8:20
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 12 @ Chicago
NOV. 28 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 13 Houston
DEC. 2 | 8:20
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 14 @ Dallas
DEC. 12 | 8:20
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 15 @ N.Y. Giants
DEC. 19 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 16 Minnesota
DEC. 26 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 17 Dallas
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

The run defense starts with tandem defensive tackles Mike Patterson and Brodrick Bunkley. Both are quick off the line and fast to the ball, but neither get the chance to showcase their pass rush. **GRADE: C+**

Linebackers ▸▸ This is easily the weakest unit of the defense, as it's the area the team least prioritizes in the early rounds of the draft. Most of the unit's success will be determined by middle linebacker Stewart Bradley's comeback from surgery to repair a knee ligament torn during training camp. Bradley finished with 151 tackles in 2008, his second season and first as a starter.

On the weak side is Akeem Jordan, an overachiever out of James Madison who was leading the defense in tackles early last season before sustaining a knee injury that sidelined him for four games and hampered the rest of his season.

The strong side is the biggest question mark after the team traded veteran Chris Gocong to Cleveland in the offseason. Gocong had lost his starting job to rookie seventh-rounder Moise Fokou toward the end of last season, but the 228-pound Fokou is too light for the strong side.

Omar Gaither is a reliable backup who can play all three positions but comes off a Lisfranc foot injury that ended his 2009 season early. **GRADE: D**

Secondary ▸▸ The departures of icon Brian Dawkins and reliable cornerback Sheldon Brown over the past two years has

OFFSEASON MOVES

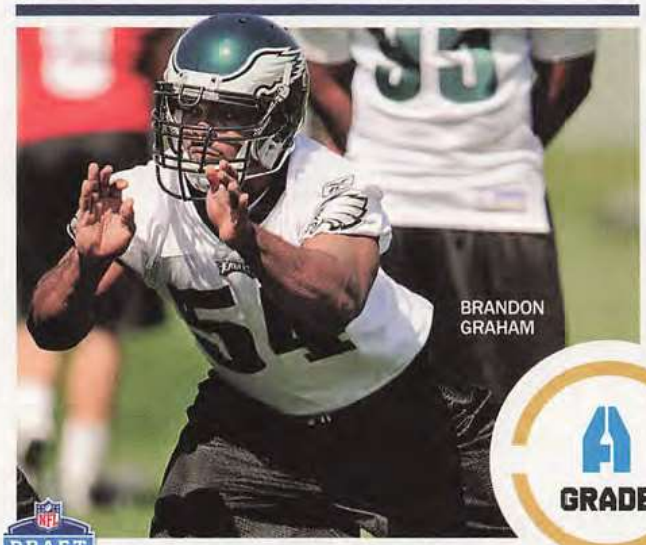
ADDITIONS

CB Marlin Jackson *(FA/Colts)*, **LB Alex Hall** *(trade/Browns)*, **DE Darryl Tapp** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **RB Mike Bell** *(FA/Saints)*, **LB Ernie Sims** *(trade/Lions)*

SUBTRACTIONS

QB Donovan McNabb *(trade/Redskins)*, **LB Chris Gocong** *(trade/Browns)*, **CB Sheldon Brown** *(trade/Browns)*, **DE Jason Babin** *(FA/Titans)*, **S Sean Jones** *(FA/Buccaneers)*, **LB Jeremiah Trotter** *(FA)*, **TE Alex Smith** *(FA)*, **LB Will Witherspoon** *(FA/Titans)*, **RB Brian Westbrook** *(FA)*, **LB Chris Clemons** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **G Shawn Andrews** *(FA)*, **WR Kevin Curtis** *(FA)*, **DE Darren Howard** *(FA)*, **WR Reggie Brown** *(trade/Buccaneers)*

DRAFT REPORT



HOWARD SMITH / US PRESSWIRE

GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	13	Brandon Graham	DE/LB	6-2	268	Michigan
2	5	Nate Allen	S	6-1	207	South Florida
3	22	Daniel Te'o-Nesheim	DE	6-4	263	Washington
4	7	Trevard Lindley	CB	5-11	183	Kentucky
4	23	Keenan Claytor	LB	6-1	229	Oklahoma
4	24	Mike Kafka	QB	6-3	225	Northwestern
4	27	Clay Harbor	TE/FB	6-3	252	Missouri State
5	3	Ricky Sapp	DE/LB	6-4	252	Clemson
5	28	Riley Cooper	WR	6-4	222	Florida
6	31	Charles Scott	RB	6-0	238	LSU
7	13	Jamar Chaney	LB	6-1	242	Mississippi State
7	36	Jeff Owens	DT	6-1	304	Georgia
7	37	Kurt Coleman	S	5-10	192	Ohio State

The Eagles wanted to upgrade their pass rush and defensive end/linebacker **Brandon Graham** is the defender to do so. Philadelphia also needed a safety and drafted **Nate Allen** in the second round. He should earn a starting spot in a few seasons. Defensive end **Daniel Te'o-Nesheim** plays with passion on every snap and will develop into anything the Eagles need.

After trading away Donovan McNabb, the Eagles wanted a young quarterback, so they grabbed **Mike Kafka** in the fourth round. They'll groom him as a backup. Other fourth-rounders include **Keenan Clayton** and **Clay Harbor**. Clayton has the tools to develop into a solid backup linebacker, while Harbor should play a part in the Eagles' passing attack as an H-back.

Ricky Sapp has battled knee problems and slid to the Eagles late despite his talent. With his pass-rushing skills, he could be a starting defensive end in two seasons if his knees hold up. Running back **Charles Scott**, a sixth-round selection, and seventh-round defensive tackle **Jeff Owens** both show tremendous upside but also have injury concerns.

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Kolb, Kevin	QB	6-3	218	08/24/1984	4	Houston
7 Vick, Michael	QB	6-0	215	06/26/1980	8	Virginia Tech

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
76 Andrews, Stacy	T	6-7	342	06/02/1981	7	Ole Miss
59 Cole, Nick	C	6-0	350	07/28/1984	5	New Mexico State
46 Dorenbos, Jon	C	6-0	250	07/21/1980	8	UTEP
65 Dunlap, King	T	6-8	310	09/09/1985	3	Auburn
79 Herremans, Todd	G	6-6	321	10/13/1982	6	Saginaw Valley
67 Jackson, Jamaal	C	6-4	330	05/08/1980	7	Delaware State
62 Jean-Gilles, Max	G	6-3	358	11/19/1983	5	Georgia
74 Justice, Winston	T	6-6	320	09/14/1984	5	USC
77 McGlynn, Mike	G	6-4	315	03/08/1985	3	Pittsburgh
71 Peters, Jason	T	6-4	340	01/22/1982	7	Arkansas
66 Reynolds, Dallas	G	6-4	314	04/23/1984	1	Brigham Young
61 Shipley, A.Q.	C	6-1	297	05/22/1986	1	Penn State
78 Tupou, Fenuki	T	6-5	314	05/02/1985	1	Oregon

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Bell, Mike	RB	6-0	225	04/23/1983	5	Arizona
34 Buckley, Eldra	RB	5-9	207	06/23/1985	2	Chattanooga
33 Mallett, Martell	RB	6-0	213	05/13/1986	1	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
25 McCoy, LeSean	RB	5-10	198	07/12/1988	2	Pittsburgh
43 Weaver, Leonard	RB	6-0	250	09/23/1982	6	Carson-Newman
32 Wright, Dwayne	RB	5-11	228	06/02/1983	2	Fresno State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
81 Avant, Jason	WR	6-0	212	04/20/1983	5	Michigan
84 Baskett, Hank	WR	6-4	220	09/04/1982	5	New Mexico
87 Celek, Brent	TE	6-4	255	01/25/1985	4	Cincinnati
11 Collins, Dobson	WR	6-2	188	07/12/1987	1	Gardner-Webb
16 Hall, Chad	WR	5-8	180	05/23/1986	0	Air Force
88 Ingram, Cornelius	TE	6-4	245	06/10/1985	1	Florida
10 Jackson, DeSean	WR	5-10	175	12/01/1986	3	California
18 Maclin, Jeremy	WR	6-0	198	05/11/1988	2	Missouri
19 Norwood, Jordan	WR	5-11	171	09/28/1986	1	Penn State
89 Rucker, Martin	TE	6-5	260	05/04/1985	3	Missouri

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
95 Abiamiri, Victor	DE	6-4	267	01/14/1986	4	Notre Dame
97 Bunkley, Brodrick	DT	6-2	306	11/23/1983	5	Florida State
58 Cole, Trent	DE	6-3	270	10/05/1982	6	Cincinnati
64 Dixon, Antonio	DT	6-3	322	06/30/1985	2	Miami (FL)
93 Laws, Trevor	DT	6-1	304	06/14/1985	3	Notre Dame
75 Parker, Juqua	DE	6-2	250	05/15/1978	10	Oklahoma State
98 Patterson, Mike	DT	6-0	292	09/01/1983	6	USC
55 Tapp, Darryl	DE	6-1	270	09/13/1984	5	Virginia Tech

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
39 Demps, Quintin	S	5-11	206	06/29/1985	3	UTEP
21 Hanson, Joselio	CB	5-9	185	08/13/1981	6	Texas Tech
35 Harris, Macho	S	5-11	187	02/16/1986	2	Virginia Tech
31 Hobbs, Ellis	CB	5-9	195	05/16/1983	6	Iowa State
28 Jackson, Marlin	S	6-0	196	06/30/1983	6	Michigan
27 Mikell, Quintin	S	5-10	206	09/16/1980	8	Boise State
23 Patterson, Dimitri	CB	5-10	190	06/18/1983	5	Tuskegee
30 Pope, Geoffrey	CB	6-0	186	06/21/1984	3	Howard
22 Samuel, Asante	CB	5-10	185	01/06/1981	8	UCF

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Bradley, Stewart	LB	6-4	255	11/02/1983	3	Nebraska
53 Fokou, Moise	LB	6-1	228	08/28/1985	2	Maryland
96 Gaither, Omar	LB	6-2	235	03/18/1984	5	Tennessee
57 Hall, Alex	LB	6-5	250	08/17/1985	3	St. Augustine
56 Jordan, Akeem	LB	6-1	230	08/17/1985	4	James Madison
51 Mays, Joe	LB	5-11	246	07/06/1985	3	North Dakota State
50 Sims, Ernie	LB	6-0	225	12/23/1984	5	Florida State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Akers, David	K	5-10	200	12/09/1974	12	Louisville
8 Brooks, Durant	P	6-0	204	04/15/1985	2	Georgia Tech
6 Rocca, Sav	P	6-5	265	11/20/1973	4	None

» **ANDY REID,** *Head coach*
Marty Mornhinweg, assistant head coach/offensive coordinator; **Sean McDermott,** defensive coordinator; **Bobby April,** special teams coordinator; **Juan Castillo,** offensive line; **Ted Williams,** running backs; **Tom Melvin,** tight ends; **David Culley,** wide receivers; **James Urban,** quarterbacks; **Dick Jauron,** senior assistant/secondary; **Bill Shuey,** linebackers; **Rory Segrest,** defensive line; **Mike Caldwell,** assistant linebackers

left the secondary vulnerable at two critical positions. Opposite three-time Pro Bowler corner Asante Samuel (who led the team with nine interceptions last year), is Ellis Hobbs, who is coming off major neck surgery that sidelined him for the second half of the season. Hobbs enters the spring camps as the team's starter at right corner.

Reserve corner Joselio Hanson's quick lateral movement makes him one of the league's top slot cornerbacks, but he's not fast enough or big enough to play on the outside.

At strong safety, Quintin Mikell prepares for his third full season as the starter. He's a sound tackler, the team's best cover safety and a tenacious blitzer. But free safety is problematic. The team failed to settle on Dawkins' replacement last season, rotating rookie Macho Harris, veteran Sean Jones and Quintin Demps in various schemes and formations.

The team signed former Colts corner Marlin Jackson in the offseason with hopes of converting him into a safety after Jackson had his second ACL surgery in two years. He will battle second-round pick Nate Allen for the starting spot. **GRADE: C**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

ANDY REID

Reid is unpredictable. He's a riverboat gambler sometimes and ultra-conservative in other instances. It's not uncommon for him to go for the first down on fourth-and-1 at one point and trot out the punt team in the same situation in the same game. Mainly, he plays his hunch, which makes him look like a genius sometimes and an imbecile at other times.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The field goal unit is among the league's best, with Pro Bowlers in kicker David Akers and long snapper Jon Dorenbos. Akers is coming off an outstanding season in which he tied for the NFL lead in field goals (32) and converted 86.5 percent of his kicks.

Philadelphia's punting game has been wildly inconsistent throughout Sav Rocca's three seasons. The Aussie's leg is unquestionably powerful, but he doesn't produce enough consecutive booming kicks given his leg strength.

Jackson is arguably the NFL's most dangerous punt return man. He led the NFL last season with a 15.2 average per return and ran back two for touchdowns. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

Despite the youth movement and landmark quarterback change, the Eagles don't expect to fizzle away and refuse to label 2010 as a rebuilding season. Super Bowl expectations remain the same, as they always have in Reid's 11 seasons.

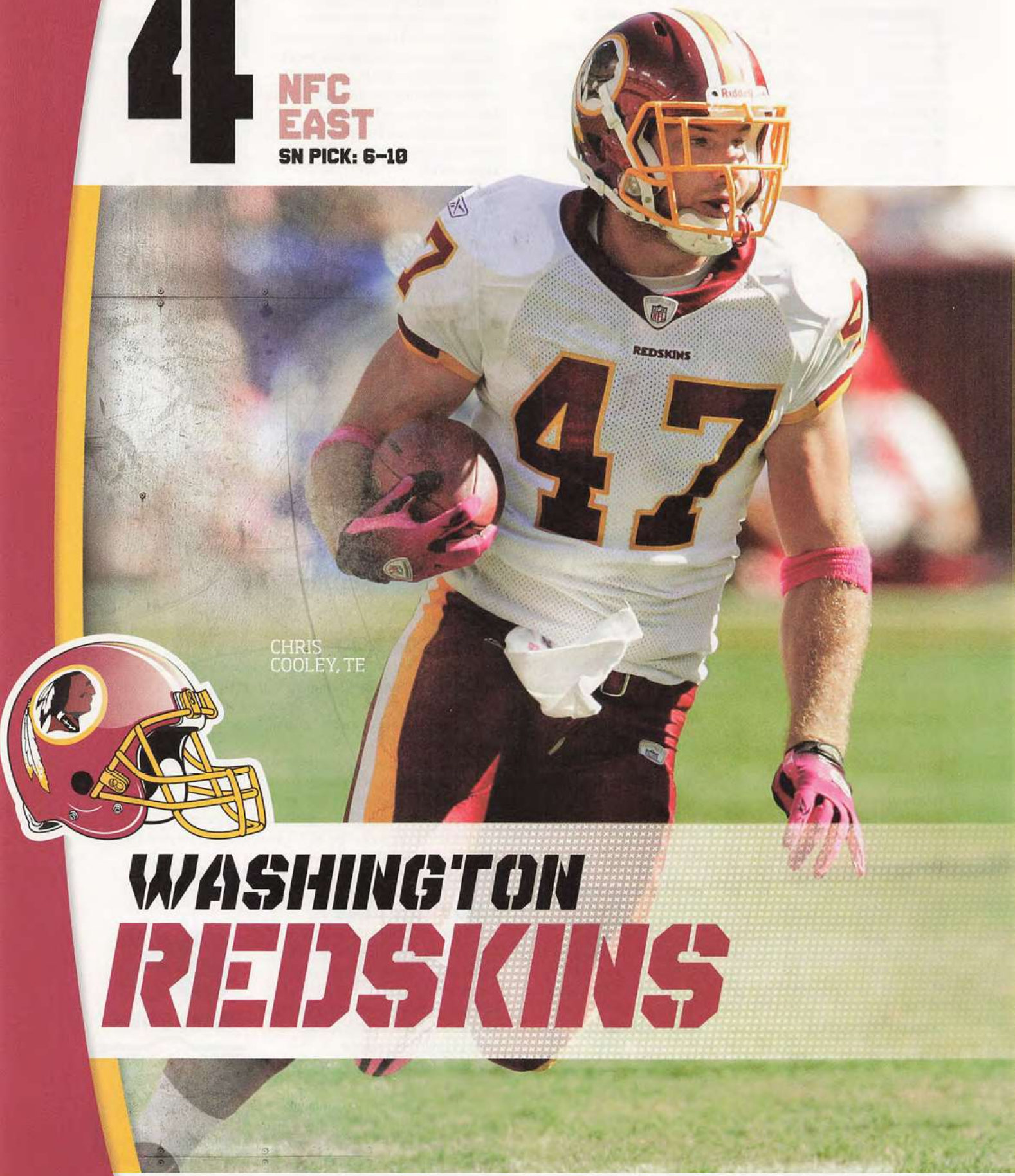
All eyes will be on Kolb's first season as McNabb's successor, but if the team fails to improve on defense and the offensive line doesn't stay healthy, it may not matter who's taking snaps.

85
FINAL GRADE

4

NFC EAST

SN PICK: 6-10



CHRIS COOLEY, TE

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Can new trio of leaders return Redskins to their glory days?

By John Keim, *Washington Examiner*

The usual splash has resulted in the usual chatter and the usual question: Is this time different?

Under owner Dan Snyder, the Redskins have excelled at landing big names, creating outsized expectations and falling woefully short.

But Snyder, in charge since 1999, has now trumped his previous moves. Since December, the Redskins have added a legitimate general manager in Bruce Allen, a genuine coach in Mike Shanahan and a possible franchise quarterback in Donovan McNabb.

Despite all these moves, the franchise contained itself in free agency. And with Snyder taking a backseat to operations, there's hope for the Redskins in 2010.

However, the offensive line still needs fixing and questions abound at running back. But the defense should be sound despite switching to a 3-4 scheme, as there's enough talent to make it work.

So let the hyperbole begin. Again.

OFFENSE

The Redskins will continue running a West Coast offense, but it will be different and more complex than the one implemented by former coach Jim Zorn. Offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, Mike's son, will call the plays as he did in Houston. But the offense is his father's. Mike Shanahan loves to run the ball using zone and cut-blocking schemes, which create cutback lanes. He will call a lot of bootlegs, rollouts and play-action in the passing game, as well.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ When the Redskins pulled off the shocking trade for McNabb, they gave themselves a chance at stability and success at a position where it's been lacking for nearly two decades. Jason Campbell provided some consistency during the past three and a half years, but he was only 20-32 as a starter and was traded to the Raiders during draft weekend.

McNabb may be new to the team, but he brings six Pro Bowl appearances to a franchise that's had only two quarterbacks make the honorary game in the past two decades. Redskins players have also already raved about McNabb's presence during informal workouts. His mobility and strong arm are reminiscent of other Shanahan quarterbacks such as John Elway, which will make him a good fit in this system.

With Campbell gone, Rex Grossman could be the primary backup, with Colt Brennan and Richard Bartel battling for the No. 3 job. **GRADE: B+**

Running backs ▸▸ If this were 2005, the Redskins would have the most dangerous backfield in the league. Sadly for them, it's not. And it's questionable how much Clinton Portis, Larry Johnson and Willie Parker have left. Portis is the youngest of the group, and he turns 29 in September.

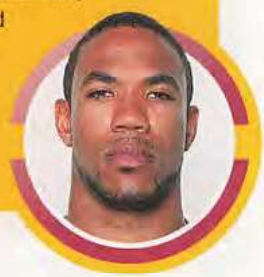
Portis, with 2,176 career carries, turned into a grinder for the Redskins after gaining 3,099 yards in two seasons with Shanahan in Denver. He also upset many teammates in Washington with his penchant for not taking the offseason as seriously as others. But perhaps his productivity will increase under Shanahan, as he's a good fit in this system with his one-cut ability.

Johnson is a straight-ahead power runner and depends on a good line, which

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

DEVIN THOMAS — **WR**

The third-year receiver was raw coming out of Michigan State and has caught just 40 career passes. But he showed flashes of explosiveness last season and looks to have finally developed. The Redskins are in a good place to help him this year, with a better offensive coordinator, new quarterback and two threats at tight end. Washington will finally put Thomas in favorable situations.



PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Donovan McNabb Rex Grossman
FB	Mike Sellers
RB	Clinton Portis Larry Johnson
LT	Trent Williams Stephon Heyer
LG	Derrick Dockery Kory Lichtensteiger
C	Casey Rabach Will Montgomery
RG	Mike Williams Chad Rinehart
RT	Artis Hicks Trent Williams
TE	Chris Cooley Fred Davis
WR	Santana Moss Malcolm Kelly
WR	Devin Thomas Marko Mitchell
DEFENSE	
DE	Phillip Daniels Jeremy Jarmon
NT	Albert Haynesworth Ma'ake Kemoeatu
DE	Kedric Golston Rob Jackson
OLB	Brian Orakpo Curtis Gatewood
ILB	London Fletcher H.B. Blades
ILB	Rocky McIntosh Robert Henson
OLB	Andre Carter Chris Wilson
LCB	Carlos Rogers Justin Tryon
SS	Chris Horton Reed Doughty
FS	LaRon Landry Kareem Moore
RCB	DeAngelo Hall Phillip Buchanon
SPECIALISTS	
K	Graham Gano
P	Josh Bidwell
KR	Terrence Austin
PR	Phillip Buchanon
LS	Nick Sundberg

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 4-12 HOME: 3-5

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/redskins
www.redskins.com

STADIUM
FedEx Field
Capacity: 91,704 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 301-276-6800
Training Camp: Redskins Park, Ashburn, Va.; 703-726-7411

OPPOSITE: ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

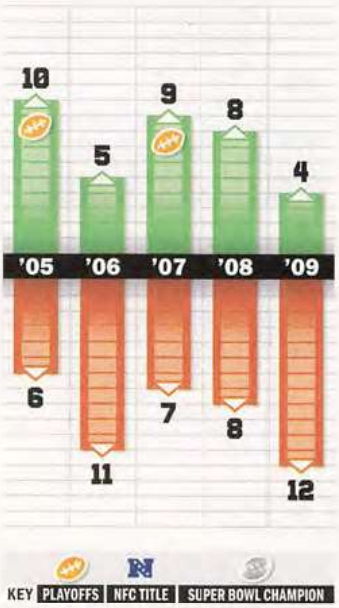
VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Redskins)

"All the parts to be successful on the perimeter are good. The running game? I don't know. They could use a quality back. But if there's one thing about (Donovan) McNabb, he brought the level up. I don't know yet in terms of the running game and the protection where they're at. If they can manufacture a running game and protect the quarterback—(Mike) Shanahan has such a quarterback-friendly offense because he does a lot of play-action—it will take the onus off the line. He can operate with a bad line. That's why they have a chance to be successful right away. ...

"Mike can operate without a top running back, but he needs receivers, and he has them there with (Chris) Cooley and (Fred Davis). All he needed was the quarterback. The defense has a chance to be pretty good. (Coordinator Jim) Haslett was very good at one time. He's complicated in the secondary. You don't see many ex-players be successful coaches, but he made the conversion because he truly understands coaching. But getting the quarterback was everything. They now have a good three-year window with McNabb."

5-YEAR RECORD: 36-44



the Redskins don't have. Parker used to be fast, but his days as a speedster are done. He hasn't had a run longer than 34 yards since 2006. Anthony Alridge has speed but also fumbling issues. Burly Mike Sellers remains the fullback, though he is not the prototypical player Shanahan wants at this spot. **GRADE: C**

Receivers ▸▸ Tight ends Chris Cooley and Fred Davis are the strength of the passing game. While Cooley missed the final nine contests in 2009 with a broken ankle, the athletic Davis emerged as a major threat. He caught 41 of his 48 passes during that time, including six touchdowns. The Redskins will use them both on the field at the same time, creating matchup issues.

But the team still needs production from the receiving corps, whose big problem last year was the inability to free Santana Moss from double teams. Luckily, this is offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan's specialty. He's known for moving receivers around to curb double coverage. Moss (who turns 31 in June) is still good, but his days as a strong No. 1 option are likely over.

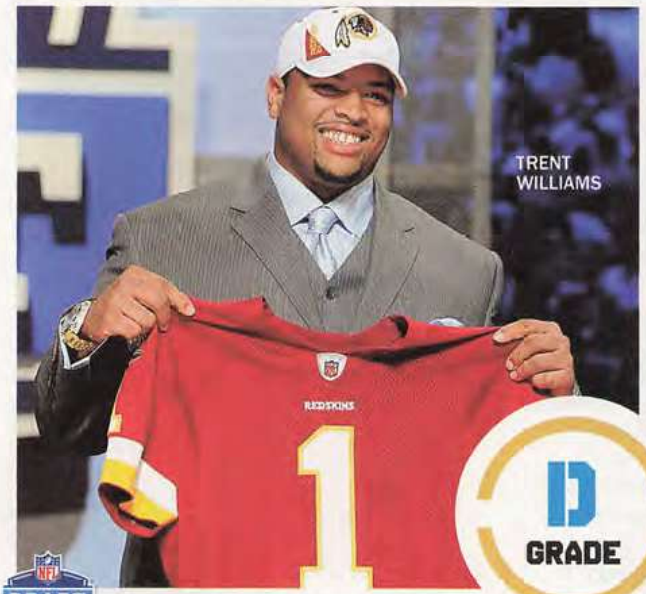
He's not the issue, however. Young wideouts Devin Thomas and Malcolm Kelly are entering their third seasons and have yet to produce. Thomas displayed more explosiveness as he became more comfortable and could break out this season. **GRADE: B**

Offensive line ▸▸ The Redskins placed little emphasis on improving the line in the last decade, injecting almost no youth into the unit. As a result, the offense has struggled the past two years. Campbell survived a pounding in 2009 and has been sacked 81 times over the last two seasons. McNabb may not stand for that and needs this group to step up.

The line lost left tackle Chris Samuels (retirement) and right guard Randy Thomas (released). First-round pick Trent Williams, one of three offensive linemen drafted, will start at left tackle but is going to face an adjustment period not to mention numerous elite rushers.

The team did add Artis Hicks, who should replace Stephon Heyer at right tackle. Center Casey Rabach and left guard Derrick Dockery were the steadiest players on the line a year ago. Rabach's size (6-4, 296) and ability to move laterally should help in this scheme. Mike Williams was more effective at right guard

DRAFT REPORT



D
GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	4	Trent Williams	OT	6-5	315	Oklahoma
4	5	Perry Riley	LB	6-1	239	LSU
6	5	Dennis Morris	TE	6-1	253	Louisiana Tech
7	12	Terrence Austin	WR	5-10	165	UCLA
7	22	Erik Cook	C	6-6	318	New Mexico
7	24	Selvish Capers	OT	6-5	308	West Virginia

Coach Mike Shanahan believes in coaching talented players with inconsistencies into stars, which is why the Redskins took **Trent Williams** over Russell Okung with their first pick. Williams will shine in the Redskins' offense as an offensive tackle. **Perry Riley** is an underrated but athletic linebacker with starting talent who will fit in well at inside linebacker in the Redskins' 3-4 scheme.

With their sixth- and seventh-round picks, Washington took some interesting prospects who could be real finds if they develop properly. Wide receiver **Terrence Austin** is an agile return man who can make big plays in the open field, while offensive tackle **Selvish Capers** is big and athletic, but gets lazy and misses some blocks.

UPI / NEWSCOM

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	14-23	at New York Giants
09/20	W	9-7	St. Louis Rams
09/27	L	14-19	at Detroit Lions
10/04	W	16-13	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/11	L	17-20	at Carolina Panthers
10/18	L	6-14	Kansas City Chiefs
10/26	L	17-27	Philadelphia Eagles
11/08	L	17-31	at Atlanta Falcons
11/15	W	27-17	Denver Broncos
11/22	L	6-7	at Dallas Cowboys
11/29	L	24-27	at Philadelphia Eagles
12/06	L	30-33	New Orleans Saints
2/13	W	34-13	at Oakland Raiders
12/21	L	12-45	New York Giants
12/27	L	0-17	Dallas Cowboys
01/03	L	20-23	at San Diego Chargers

WON 4, LOST 12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Portis	124	494	4.0	78	1
Campbell	46	236	5.1	21	1
Cartwright	64	228	3.6	34	0
Betts	56	210	3.8	18	2
Ganther	62	201	3.2	13	3
Mason	32	127	4.0	20	0
Moss	2	8	4.0	6	0
Smith	1	8	8.0	8	1
Collins	1	0	0.0	0	0
Thomas	3	-2	-0.7	2	0
REDSKINS	391	1510	3.9	78	8
OPPONENTS	449	1799	4.0	67	10

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Moss	70	902	12.9	59	3
Randle El	50	530	10.6	44	0
Davis	48	509	10.6	29	6
Cooley	29	332	11.4	25	2
Cartwright	27	242	9.0	51	1
Kelly	25	347	13.9	84	0
Thomas	25	325	13.0	40	3
Betts	17	179	10.5	25	0
Sellers	17	176	10.4	47	2
Ganther	9	99	11.0	42	0
Portis	9	57	6.3	10	1
Mason	6	58	9.7	17	0
Mitchell	4	32	8.0	11	0
Yoder	4	9	2.3	3	3
REDSKINS	340	3797	11.2	84	21
OPPONENT	314	3316	10.6	75	19

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Campbell	507	327	3618	20	15
Collins	23	12	144	0	0
Smith	2	1	35	1	1
Portis	1	0	0	0	0
REDSKINS	533	340	3797	21	16
OPPONENTS	511	314	3557	19	11

SACKS REDSKINS 40, OPPONENTS 46

Carter 11, Orakpo 11, Haynesworth 4, Fletcher 2, Doughty 2, Golston 2, Griffin 2, Alexander 2, Landry 1, Daniels 1, Tryon 1, Wilson 1

EVAN VUCCI / AP

last season, but there's no guarantee he'll start in 2010. **GRADE: D**

DEFENSE

The Redskins will run a 3-4 front for the first time under new coordinator Jim Haslett. However, Washington will still run plenty of 4-3 looks on passing downs, as most of the players are more comfortable in this alignment. But Haslett is known for being aggressive with blitzes, and the 3-4 gives him an opportunity to send guys from different angles.

Defensive line The shift to a 3-4 will require a number of players to change positions up front, most notably Albert Haynesworth. The Redskins tried to trade him in the offseason. If he returns in 2010, Haynesworth will play nose tackle—a spot he does not like. He has the quickness and power to dominate this position, but to play effectively he'll have to be more selfless and help set up the linebackers. Two other nose tackles signed in the offseason, including former Carolina Panther Ma'ake Kemoeatu.

Defensive end Phillip Daniels is 37 but has the size and strength to play end in any front. Kedric Golston likely will shift from defensive tackle to end, a spot he's never played. Andre Carter has shifted to outside linebacker but will play end when the Redskins use a 4-3 scheme in pass situations, as will Brian Orakpo. Both were effective in those roles a year ago.

A big problem is depth. Washington had a lot of it in 2009, but three linemen will now be forced to play outside linebacker and another, tackle Cornelius Griffin, was cut. A lot will hinge on Haynesworth, a no-show at voluntary offseason workouts. He's the only playmaker up front in the Redskins' base defense. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers The Redskins return all their starters from last season, but some of the roles have changed. Orakpo will remain on the strong side, serving as a standup rusher who occasionally drops into coverage. He struggled at times against the run last season, and it's surprising more teams didn't test him in coverage.

Rocky McIntosh likely will move from the weak side to the inside spot next to London Fletcher. McIntosh is physical enough to play inside, and since Washington's previous alignment placed him in a similar spot, he'll transition quickly. Fletcher has never played in a base 3-4, but he is savvy enough to make the switch.

The big question is at the other outside linebacker spot. Carter played there in 2005 with San Francisco but struggled. Jeremy Jarmon and Lorenzo Alexander also are switching from end. Jarmon is athletic but hasn't played linebacker since his early high school days. Chris Wilson is another possibility, having moved from defensive end to outside linebacker in 2009. **GRADE: B**

Secondary The backfield was strong two years ago, but it slipped last season. Cornerback DeAngelo Hall

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE SHANAHAN

Shanahan won't call the plays, but his son Kyle, the new offensive coordinator, has a similar mindset. Mike Shanahan's aggressiveness is evident in every decision he makes: Remember Denver going for the two-point conversion in the final seconds of a 39-38 win over San Diego in 2008? He also loves going for it on fourth down.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	312.5	22
RUSHING	94.4	27
PASSING	218.1	16
SCORING	266	26
PUNT RETURNS	4.8	30
KICK RETURNS	21.7	24
RED ZONE TD %	56.5	7
TOTAL DEFENSE	319.7	10
AGAINST RUSH	112.4	16
AGAINST PASS	207.3	8t
POINTS ALLOWED	336	18
INTERCEPTIONS	11	26t
SACKS	40	8t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-11	28

REDSKINS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Dexter Manley** *(1982-89)* — **91.0**
2. **Charles Mann** *(1983-93)* — **82.0**
3. **Monte Coleman** *(1979-94)* — **43.5**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Dallas
SEPT. 12 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 2 Houston
SEPT. 19 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 3 @ St. Louis
SEPT. 26 | 4:05
— SCORE

WEEK 4 @ Philadelphia
OCT. 3 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 5 Green Bay
OCT. 10 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 6 Indianapolis
OCT. 17 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 7 @ Chicago
OCT. 24 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 8 @ Detroit
OCT. 31 | 1:00
— SCORE

>> **WEEK 9** OPEN DATE

WEEK 10 Philadelphia
NOV. 15 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 11 @ Tennessee
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 12 Minnesota
NOV. 28 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 13 @ N.Y. Giants
DEC. 5 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 14 Tampa Bay
DEC. 12 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 15 @ Dallas
DEC. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 16 @ Jacksonville
DEC. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 17 N.Y. Giants
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

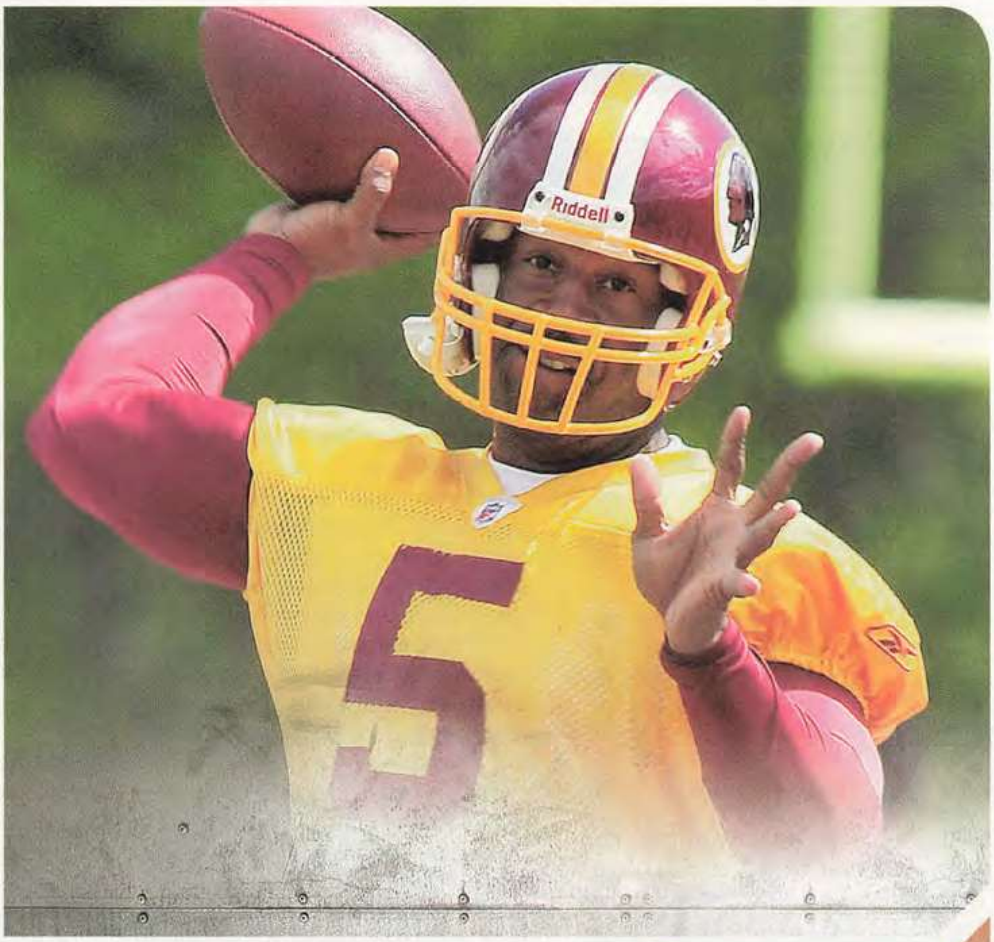
QB Donovan McNabb *(trade/Eagles)*, **RB Willie Parker** *(FA/Steelers)*, **RB Larry Johnson** *(FA/Chiefs)*, **DT Ma'ake Kemoeatu** *(FA/Panthers)*, **CB Phillip Buchanon** *(FA/Lions)*, **QB Rex Grossman** *(FA/Texans)*, **WR Bobby Wade** *(FA/Chiefs)*, **OT Artis Hicks** *(FA/Vikings)*, **WR Joey Galloway** *(FA/Steelers)*, **P Josh Bidwell** *(FA/Buccaneers)*, **DE Adam Carriker** *(trade/Rams)*

SUBTRACTIONS

QB Jason Campbell *(trade/Raiders)*, **RB Rock Cartwright** *(FA/Raiders)*, **WR Antwaan Randle El** *(FA/Steelers)*, **OT Chris Samuels** *(retired)*, **G Randy Thomas** *(FA)*, **CB Fred Smoot** *(FA)*, **DT Cornelius Griffin** *(FA)*, **C Ethan Albright** *(FA)*, **DE Renaldo Wynn** *(FA)*, **TE Todd Yoder** *(FA)*, **QB Todd Collins** *(FA)*, **RB Ladell Betts** *(FA)*

is the lone ballhawk in the secondary and should thrive by playing more zone coverage than in the past, giving him a chance to pick off more passes. Carlos Rogers is better against the run, but Hall has done everything asked of him since joining the Redskins midway through 2008. Rogers' play declined last season, but his physical style should work well in Haslett's defense.

Phillip Buchanon is coming off a decent season in Detroit. Justin Tryon was average covering in the slot last season but proved to be a good blitzer. Safety LaRon Landry has Pro Bowl talent but has not had Pro Bowl results. He has the speed to cover



PHOTOLINK / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... DONOVAN McNABB

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Donovan still has a pretty good three, four or five years left. He'll bring a lot of personality, experience, leadership and stuff that the Redskins have lacked at quarterback. He'll be a good source of positive energy. He's always had a lot of personality in the locker room—he can talk to anyone in the building and make them feel comfortable. He has charisma. ...

"(New coach Mike) Shanahan has had a lot of mobile quarterbacks in the past. I don't see a downside in terms of being able to get the most out of Donovan. Philosophically it's different from what Donovan (had in Philadelphia) in terms of how they move the quarterback, but that helps him. There will be more boot action and rolling out, whereas in (Philadelphia) he ended up being more of a pocket passer. He had the option to run, but that really wasn't the first option the last four or five years."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Bartel, Richard	QB	6-3	233	02/03/1983	3	Tarleton State
5 Brennan, Colt	QB	6-3	212	08/16/1983	2	Hawaii
5 Grossman, Rex	QB	6-1	218	08/23/1980	8	Florida
5 McNabb, Donovan	QB	6-2	240	11/25/1976	12	Syracuse

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
66 Dockery, Derrick	G	6-6	330	09/07/1980	8	Texas
69 Fanaika, Paul	G	6-5	327	04/09/1986	2	Arizona State
74 Heyer, Stephon	T	6-6	325	01/16/1984	4	Maryland
79 Hicks, Artis	T	6-4	335	11/28/1978	9	Memphis
Lichtensteiger, Kory	C	6-3	295	03/22/1985	3	Bowling Green
63 Montgomery, Will	C	6-3	305	02/13/1983	4	Virginia Tech
68 Oldenburg, Clint	T	6-5	300	09/09/1983	1	Colorado State
61 Rabach, Casey	C	6-4	296	09/24/1977	10	Wisconsin
75 Rinehart, Chad	G	6-5	311	05/04/1985	3	Northern Iowa
73 Robinson, William	T	6-6	280	12/20/1984	1	San Diego State
Sundberg, Nick	C	6-0	244	07/29/1987	1	California
50 Williams, Edwin	C	6-3	315	12/10/1986	2	Maryland
71 Williams, Mike	T	6-7	337	01/11/1980	7	Texas

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
39 Alridge, Anthony	RB	5-9	175	11/24/1983	2	Houston
24 Hill, P.J.	RB	5-10	218	01/03/1987	2	Wisconsin
27 Johnson, Larry	RB	6-1	230	11/19/1979	8	Penn State
39 Parker, Willie	RB	5-10	209	11/11/1980	7	North Carolina
26 Portis, Clinton	RB	5-11	221	09/01/1981	9	Miami (FL)
45 Sellers, Mike	RB	6-3	245	07/21/1975	11	Walla Walla CC
42 Torain, Ryan	RB	6-1	225	08/10/1986	2	Arizona State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Armstrong, Anthony	WR	5-11	183	03/29/1983	1	West Texas A&M
47 Cooley, Chris	TE	6-3	250	07/11/1982	7	Utah State
86 Davis, Fred	TE	6-4	250	01/15/1986	3	USC
80 Hagans, Marques	WR	5-10	205	12/29/1982	3	Virginia
12 Kelly, Malcolm	WR	6-4	219	12/30/1986	3	Oklahoma
84 Mitchell, Marko	WR	6-4	218	03/11/1985	2	Nevada
89 Moss, Santana	WR	5-10	200	06/01/1979	10	Miami (FL)
14 Robinson, James	WR	6-3	200	12/06/1982	1	Butler County (KS) CC
89 Ryan, Sean	TE	6-5	260	03/27/1980	7	Boston College
11 Thomas, Devin	WR	6-2	218	11/15/1986	3	Michigan State
80 Vickers, Lee	TE	6-6	275	03/13/1981	2	North Alabama
86 Williams, Roydell	WR	6-0	187	03/14/1981	4	Tulane

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
75 Bryant, Anthony	DT	6-3	335	11/06/1981	3	Alabama
90 Carriker, Adam	DT	6-6	296	05/06/1984	3	Nebraska
99 Carter, Andre	DE	6-4	252	05/12/1979	10	California
93 Daniels, Phillip	DE	6-6	305	03/04/1973	15	Georgia
64 Golston, Kedric	DT	6-4	300	05/30/1983	5	Georgia
95 Green, Howard	DT	6-2	320	01/12/1979	6	LSU
92 Haynesworth, Albert	DT	6-6	350	06/17/1981	9	Tennessee
62 Holmes, Antoine	DT	6-2	281	03/25/1986	1	N.C. State
91 Jackson, Rob	DE	6-4	259	11/03/1985	3	Kansas State
90 Jarmon, Jeremy	DE	6-3	277	11/20/1987	2	Kentucky
99 Kemoeatu, Ma'ake	DT	6-5	345	01/10/1979	8	Utah
94 Montgomery, Anthony	DT	6-6	330	03/08/1984	5	Minnesota
93 Peterson, Greg	DE	6-5	315	01/21/1984	4	North Carolina Central

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25 Barnes, Kevin	CB	6-1	188	09/15/1986	2	Maryland
31 Buchanon, Phillip	CB	5-11	185	09/19/1980	9	Miami (FL)
37 Doughty, Reed	S	6-1	208	11/04/1982	5	Northern Colorado
Dutch, Doug	CB	5-11	199	02/15/1986	1	Michigan
23 Hall, DeAngelo	CB	5-10	200	11/19/1983	7	Virginia Tech
29 Holmes, Lendy	S	6-1	201	10/28/1985	2	Oklahoma
48 Horton, Chris	S	6-1	212	12/29/1984	3	UCLA
30 Landry, LaRon	S	6-2	210	10/14/1984	4	LSU
40 McCauley, Marcus	CB	6-1	203	09/03/1983	4	Fresno State
41 Moore, Kareem	S	5-11	218	08/13/1984	3	Nicholls State
22 Rogers, Carlos	CB	5-11	199	07/02/1981	6	Auburn
20 Tryon, Justin	CB	5-9	190	05/29/1984	3	Arizona State
34 Westbrook, Byron	CB	5-10	194	12/26/1984	2	Salisbury University

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
79 Alexander, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	275	05/31/1983	4	California
54 Blades, H.B.	LB	5-10	242	09/30/1984	4	Pittsburgh
55 Bowen, Alvin	LB	6-1	223	12/24/1983	2	Iowa State
59 Fletcher, London	LB	5-10	245	05/19/1975	13	John Carroll
56 Gatewood, Curtis	LB	6-2	248	05/18/1985	3	Vanderbilt
51 Henson, Robert	LB	6-0	242	01/27/1986	2	TCU
52 McIntosh, Rocky	LB	6-2	238	11/15/1982	5	Miami (FL)
98 Orakpo, Brian	LB	6-4	260	07/31/1986	2	Texas
95 Wilson, Chris	LB	6-4	241	07/10/1982	4	Northwood (MI)
53 Young, Darrel	LB	5-11	245	04/08/1987	1	Villanova

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Bidwell, Josh	P	6-3	220	03/13/1976	10	Oregon
4 Gano, Graham	K	6-1	200	04/09/1987	1	Florida State
7 Medlock, Justin	K	5-11	201	10/23/1983	1	UCLA

MIKE SHANAHAN, *Head coach*

Kyle Shanahan, offensive coordinator; **Jim Haslett,** defensive coordinator; **Danny Smith,** special teams coordinator; **Chris Foerster,** offensive line; **Richard Hightower,** special teams assistant; **Bobby Turner,** assistant head coach/running backs; **Jon Embree,** tight ends; **Keenan McCardell,** wide receivers; **Matt LaFleur,** quarterbacks; **Bob Slowik,** secondary; **Steve Jackson,** secondary/safties; **Lou Spanos,** linebackers; **Jacob Burney,** defensive line

deep but bites too hard on certain routes.

Reed Doughty and Chris Horton are decent safeties, but they're better on the strong side. Kareem Moore needs to get past durability issues to be an efficient safety. **GRADE: B-**

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Donovan McNabb's addition could mean big things for young receivers Devin Thomas, Malcolm Kelly and Fred Davis. Watch them in the preseason.

SPECIAL TEAMS

BUY
Santana Moss
WR

SELL
Clinton Portis
RB

SLEEPER
Fred Davis
TE

Punter Josh Bidwell was signed in the offseason to save the special teams unit. Hopefully, he won't follow the path of former punter Hunter Smith, who battled injuries while with the team. Bidwell missed last year with a hip injury, but averaged 44.5 yards per punt with Tampa Bay in 2008.

The coverage units are typically solid under coach Danny Smith. However, the Redskins are thin at kicker with Graham Gano and Justin Medlock, who combined to make just five of six field goals last year.

Return specialist is another sore spot, which is why Terrence Austin was drafted. The speedy rookie out of UCLA can return both punts and kickoffs, while Buchanon could also help in the punt return game. He has averaged 9.1 yards in his career. Nick Sundberg is the only long snapper on the roster, and longtime veteran Ethan Albright has not been re-signed. **GRADE: C-**

BOTTOM LINE

The Redskins improved at quarterback, but they still have major question marks offensively. If the line dramatically improves, the offense could be dynamic. If not, the playoffs will remain elusive. And there's doubt about how effective McNabb can be with a weak line, not to mention three aging running backs. But McNabb and Shanahan make up the Redskins' strongest quarterback/coach duo since Joe Theismann and Joe Gibbs.

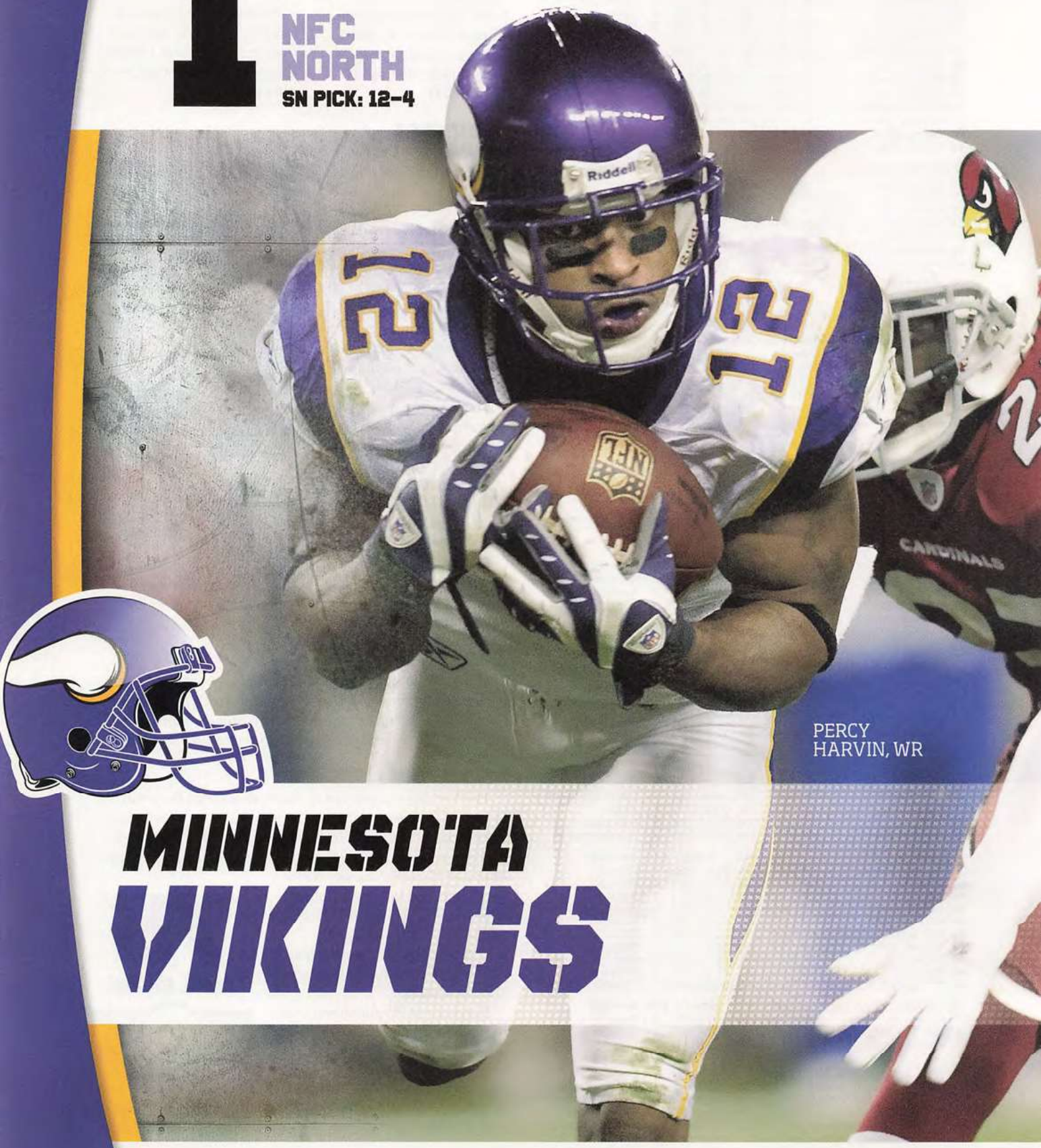
Defensively, Washington needs to force more turnovers and become more intimidating. Right now, the Redskins have a good defense, but they could be great if the players adapt quickly to their new positions.

75
FINAL GRADE

1

NFC NORTH

SN PICK: 12-4



PERCY HARVIN, WR

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

With Favre, Vikes have enough for deep playoff run

By Mark Craig, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

Assuming Brett Favre is up for playing a 20th NFL season—and we all know he is despite becoming an actual grandfather during the offseason—the Vikings should win a third consecutive NFC North title while competing for the home-field advantage necessary to reach Super Bowl 45.

Eight months after losing the NFC championship game in overtime at New Orleans, the Vikings head into the 2010 season with virtually the same team and more experience than the one that looked to have a chance to beat the Saints in January if not for an uncharacteristic five turnovers. The Vikings moped over the loss for months but appear to have moved on.

"You can't let it bother you for that long," defensive end Jared Allen says. "New year, new tournament."

OFFENSE

Coach Brad Childress and offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell enter their fifth season together and share a West Coast philosophy that emphasizes rushing attempts to control rhythm, wear down defenders and create opportunities for explosive plays once opponents have committed an eighth or ninth man to the box. It's an approach that requires patience at the quarterback position, which Favre fought against last year. But it also helped him throw a career-low seven interceptions.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ If Favre returns for a second season in Minnesota, the Vikings are content at quarterback for at least one more season. Favre will turn 41 in 2010, but his arm is strong enough and his feet quick enough to allow his brain to stay a step ahead of opposing defenses. In late April, Favre posted on his Web site that ankle surgery would be required should he come back for his 20th season.

Favre is 9-0 at the Metrodome as a Vikings quarterback, but only 4-5 on the road. As evidenced by his interception late in the NFC title game, Favre still must fight the urge to do more than he's capable of.

As for backups, the Vikings are complacent with Tarvaris Jackson and Sage Rosenfels. Jackson has failed so far as a starter, but isn't terrible as a No. 2 option. He's an athletic, experienced veteran who enters his fifth season in the same system. Should Favre and/or Jackson need to be replaced, Rosenfels heads into his second year in Minnesota as an overqualified No. 3 option. **GRADE: A**

Running backs ▸▸ Adrian Peterson has been picked at consistently for his ball security, or lack thereof. But even with this one significant flaw, he's still a great running back who uses speed, power and attitude to take more real estate than he gives away in fumbles. The three-time Pro Bowler went into the offseason vowing to improve his ball security. He'll also need to be a better pass protector since he'll no longer have steady veteran Chester Taylor serving as the third-down back.

Taylor's departure to the Bears via free agency was the only substantial blow the Vikings suffered during the offseason. After failing to sign LaDainian Tomlinson, the Vikings turned to the draft, trading up in the second round to select Heisman Trophy runner-up Toby Gerhart. A fullback-sized tailback, Gerhart is powerful between the tackles and athletic enough to run outside. Albert Young provides a nice blend of power, quickness, youth and desire.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

TOBY GERHART — RB

The Heisman Trophy runner-up steps into an important but comfortable role as Adrian Peterson's backup. The Vikings' heavy reliance on two running backs is the reason they traded up in the second round to pick Gerhart as the replacement for Chester Taylor. Gerhart is built like a fullback but plays like a tailback.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Brett Favre Tarvaris Jackson
FB	Naufahu Tahi Jeff Dugan
RB	Adrian Peterson Toby Gerhart
LT	Bryant McKinnie Ryan Cook
LG	Steve Hutchinson Chris DeGeare
C	John Sullivan Jon Cooper
RG	Anthony Herrera Chris DeGeare
RT	Phil Loadholt Ryan Cook
TE	Visanthe Shiancoe Jim Kleinsasser
WR	Bernard Berrian Percy Harvin
WR	Sidney Rice Greg Lewis
	DEFENSE
LE	Ray Edwards Brian Robison
NT	Pat Williams Fred Evans
DT	Kevin Williams Jimmy Kennedy
RE	Jared Allen Everson Griffen
SLB	Chad Greenway Heath Farwell
MLB	Jasper Brinkley Ben Leber
WLB	Ben Leber Heath Farwell
LCB	Antoine Winfield Chris Cook
SS	Tyrell Johnson Jamarca Sanford
FS	Madieu Williams Husain Abdullah
RCB	Lito Sheppard Benny Sapp
	SPECIALISTS
K	Ryan Longwell
P	Chris Kluwe
KR	Percy Harvin
PR	Darius Reynaud
LS	Cullen Loeffler

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 12-4 **HOME:** 8-0

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/vikings
www.vikings.com

STADIUM
Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome
Capacity: 64,035 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 612-338-4537
Training Camp: Minnesota State University-Makato, Mankato, Minn.; 507-387-3335

ICON SMI / NEWSCOM; OPPOSITE PAGE: TOM HAUCK/GETTY IMAGES

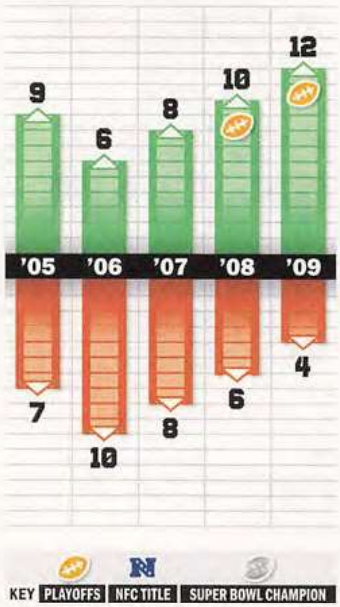
VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Vikings)

"You know what, their offensive line is not that good. They're way overrated. It's unbelievable. If they didn't have Brett Favre, the number of times he gets them out of trouble is amazing. (Bryant) McKinnie, it's a joke that he made the Pro Bowl. A joke. They have excellent speed at receiver. They have good balance at tight end. (Visanthe) Shiancoe can make big plays down the field, and Jimmy Kleinsasser isn't what he used to be but still gives you a good day's work. (Adrian) Peterson is a little bit feast or famine. I think it will hurt them that they lost Chester Taylor because that was an excellent 1-2 punch. ...

"Defensively, they're solid. Ray Edwards is a good player; Jared Allen is an excellent pass rusher. But Kevin Williams, he's the best guy they have up front. At linebacker, I don't know what's going to happen with E.J. Henderson and his injury. Chad Greenway is a playmaker. Antoine Winfield is a tough, physical tackler and by far their best guy back there. They don't have a weak defense, but the lowest part of their defense is their secondary. That's not to say they're bad. I just don't think they're at the same level as the front."

5-YEAR RECORD: 45–35



Receiver Percy Harvin, who has a similar compact frame and thick lower body, also lines up occasionally in the backfield.

GRADE: B

Receivers ▸▸ Favre has all the pass catchers he needs to lead the Vikings to the Super Bowl in Harvin, Sidney Rice, Bernard Berrian and tight end Visanthe Shiancoe. Rice isn't as fast as former Viking Randy Moss, but his combination of hands, leaping ability and body positioning were Moss-like during a breakout Pro Bowl season in 2009.

Coming out of college, Harvin was billed as a younger version of Carolina's Steve Smith, and the rookie didn't disappoint. Harvin has the ball skills and route-running ability of a receiver, but his thick build makes him just as tough to bring down as a running back.

Berrian is prone to leg injuries, which is the primary reason he didn't become the deep threat the Vikings envisioned after Favre came aboard. When healthy, Berrian stretches the defense with speed and reliable hands.

Shiancoe, meanwhile, is the quiet key that makes the passing offense succeed. His size, speed and reliable hands make him a matchup nightmare, while he is also a perfect checkdown due to his knack for finding soft areas in zone coverage.

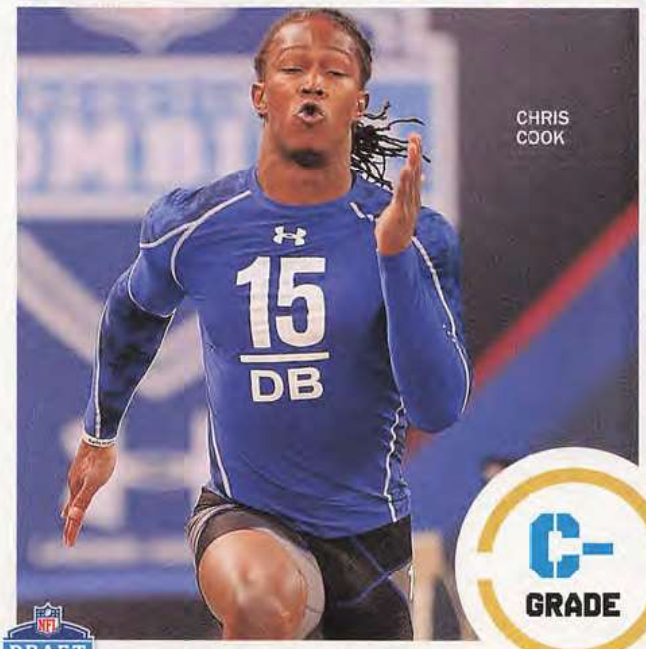
GRADE: A

Offensive line ▸▸ The Vikings' offensive line is merely average and needs more depth and improvement. Peterson was held to less than four yards a carry in eight of the Vikings' last 10 games in 2009. And Favre took some serious beatings on the road, particularly down the stretch.

Left tackle Bryant McKinnie has never been a strong run blocker and was benched against Carolina late in the season when he couldn't pass block Julius Peppers. Center John Sullivan is undersized and struggles to move defenders at the point of attack, as does right guard Anthony Herrera.

Right tackle Phil Loadholt started as a rookie and is still developing, but he

DRAFT REPORT



C–
GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
2	2	Chris Cook	CB	6-2	212	Virginia
2	19	Toby Gerhart	RB	6-0	231	Stanford
4	2	Everson Griffen	DE	6-4	273	USC
5	30	Chris DeGeare	G	6-4	325	Wake Forest
5	36	Nate Triplett	LB	6-3	250	Minnesota
6	30	Joe Webb	WR	6-3	223	UAB
7	7	Mickey Shuler	TE	6-4	251	Penn State
7	30	Ryan D'Imperio	LB	6-2	241	Rutgers

The Vikings filled their biggest needs with their first two picks and spent the rest of the draft adding depth. Virginia's **Chris Cook** is a huge cornerback but doesn't lack the speed or athleticism needed at the position. With Chester Taylor leaving as a free agent, the Vikings wanted to find a running back to back up Adrian Peterson, and **Toby Gerhart** is an excellent fit. He is a strong inside runner who gains yards after contact and is outstanding in pass protection, which should earn him playing time in 2010.

In the fourth round, the Vikings found defensive end **Everson Griffen**, who has the physical talent to start at end but will need to compete at a high level to prove his worth. **Chris DeGeare** was a good value pick, as he has the athleticism to develop into a starter in time. **Joe Webb** was also a solid late-round gamble with his incredible talent. He played mostly quarterback in college but projects as a wide receiver.

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	34-20	at Cleveland Browns
09/20	W	27-13	at Detroit Lions
09/27	W	27-24	San Francisco 49ers
10/05	W	30-23	Green Bay Packers
10/11	W	38-10	at St. Louis Rams
10/18	W	33-31	Baltimore Ravens
10/25	L	17-27	at Pittsburgh Steelers
11/01	W	38-26	at Green Bay Packers
11/15	W	27-10	Detroit Lions
11/22	W	35-9	Seattle Seahawks
11/29	W	36-10	Chicago Bears
12/06	L	17-30	at Arizona Cardinals
12/13	W	30-10	Cincinnati Bengals
12/20	L	7-26	at Carolina Panthers
12/28	L	30-36	at Chicago Bears
01/03	W	44-7	New York Giants

WON 12, LOST 4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Peterson	314	1383	4.4	64	18
Taylor	94	338	3.6	25	1
Harvin	15	135	9.0	35	0
Young	12	53	4.4	10	0
Favre	9	7	0.8	4	0
Dugan	3	7	2.3	5	0
Tahi	3	5	1.7	2	0
Jackson	17	-10	-0.6	6	0
VIKINGS	467	1918	4.1	64	19
OPPONENTS	357	1394	3.9	42	5

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rice	83	1312	15.8	63	8
Harvin	60	790	13.2	51	6
Shiancoe	56	566	10.1	27	11
Berrian	55	618	11.2	40	4
Taylor	44	389	8.8	33	1
Peterson	43	436	10.1	63	0
Kelinsasser	10	70	7.0	21	0
Tahi	10	67	6.7	32	1
Lewis	8	96	12.0	32	1
Dugan	6	52	8.7	25	2
Johnson	1	9	9.0	9	0
Favre	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
VIKINGS	377	4403	11.7	63	34
OPPONENTS	341	3494	10.2	63	26

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Favre	531	363	4202	33	7
Jackson	21	14	201	1	0
Rice	1	0	0	0	0
VIKINGS	553	377	4403	34	7
OPPONENTS	535	341	3812	26	11

SACKS — VIKINGS 48, OPPONENTS 34

J. Allen 14.5, Edwards 8.5, K. Williams 6, Robison 4.5, Kennedy 3.0, Leber 2.5, Henderson 2, P. Williams 2, Winfield 1, A. Allen 1, Abdullah 1

didn't display the kind of power in the running game that one would expect from someone his size. Left guard Steve Hutchinson, a perennial Pro Bowl selection, is coming off shoulder surgery. Losing veteran Artis Hicks in free agency was a significant blow, as he backed up both guard and tackle positions.

Chris DeGeare, a fifth-round pick from Wake Forest, adds a big body and the potential to eventually become the starter at right guard. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

Leslie Frazier returns for a fourth season as defensive coordinator in the Tampa 2 scheme that his predecessor, Mike Tomlin, installed in 2006. Frazier remains true to a conservative philosophy that relies on pressure from the front four, Cover 2 duties from the safeties and zone coverage by the corners and linebackers. However, Frazier isn't afraid to mix in blitz packages to force the action.

Defensive line ▸▸ This unit is the foundation of the Vikings' success. Kevin Williams is often unstoppable at tackle because he has the size and strength to stuff the run and the agility and desire to be a rare interior pass-rushing threat. Right end Jared Allen never stops charging, which sometimes hurts him against the run. But that can be overlooked because he's such a dominant pass rusher and takeaway artist.

Nose tackle Pat Williams is nearing the end of his career and plays a reduced number of snaps, but no one pushes "Big Pat" around when he's in there on first and second downs.

Left end Ray Edwards is the forgotten man up front, but he's developing into a feared pass rusher. The Vikings also have decent depth with high-motor end Brian Robison and former first-round draft pick Jimmy Kennedy salvaging his career in a slimmed-down body.

Minnesota also used a fourth-round pick on USC defensive end Everson Griffen, a pass rusher with first-round talent. He's inconsistent but has some great veterans to learn from. **GRADE: A**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

BRAD CHILDRESS

Childress is a conservative West Coast disciple who's committed to running the ball and having his quarterback take minimal risks. Childress believes he has a comprehensive offense with enough checks that the quarterback doesn't need to deviate radically from the script. While Leslie Frazier runs the defense, the conservative Tampa 2 scheme was handpicked by Childress when he was hired in 2006.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	379.6	5
RUSHING	119.9	13
PASSING	259.8	8
SCORING	470	2
PUNT RETURNS	9.5	12
KICK RETURNS	23.2	13
RED ZONE TD %	62.3	3
TOTAL DEFENSE	305.5	6
AGAINST RUSH	87.1	2
AGAINST PASS	218.4	19
POINTS ALLOWED	312	10
INTERCEPTIONS	11	26t
SACKS	48	1
TURNOVER DIFF.	6	8t

VIKINGS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **John Randle** *(1990-2000)* — **114.0**
2. **Chris Doleman** *(1985-99)* — **96.5**
3. **Henry Thomas** *(1987-94)* — **56.0**

Linebackers ▸▸ The linebacking corps would be much stronger if middle linebacker E.J. Henderson hadn't broken his femur last season. Henderson is confident he'll return to his old form, which had him on a path to a Pro Bowl. Rookie Jasper Brinkley filled in admirably but showed limitations in pass coverage, which is a big problem in the Vikings' Tampa 2 scheme.

Weakside linebacker Ben Leber ended up playing more in the nickel in place of Brinkley and is a smart, fluid player who doesn't make a lot of mistakes. Strongside 'backer Chad Greenway is the unit's best playmaker, using quickness and preparation to stay around the ball. Greenway should make the Pro Bowl eventually.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ New Orleans
SEPT. 9 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 2 Miami
SEPT. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 3 Detroit
SEPT. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 4 OPEN DATE

WEEK 5 @ N.Y. Jets
OCT. 11 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 6 Dallas
OCT. 17 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 7 @ Green Bay
OCT. 24 | 8:20
— SCORE

WEEK 8 @ New England
OCT. 31 | 4:15
— SCORE

WEEK 9 Arizona
NOV. 7 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 10 @ Chicago
NOV. 14 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 11 Green Bay
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 12 @ Washington
NOV. 28 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 13 Buffalo
DEC. 5 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 14 N.Y. Giants
DEC. 12 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 15 Chicago
DEC. 20 | 8:30
— SCORE

WEEK 16 @ Philadelphia
DEC. 26 | 1:00
— SCORE

WEEK 17 @ Detroit
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

An underrated backup is Heath Farwell, who went undrafted but built himself into a Pro Bowl special teams selection in 2009. He's not a starting-caliber athlete, but Farwell can play all three positions in a pinch. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ▸▸ Age, injury and performance are concerns in this unit, but depth was addressed with the signing of veteran Lito Sheppard and the selection of Virginia's Chris Cook in the second round.

Cornerback Antoine Winfield is an excellent player, but he missed seven starts last season because of a broken foot. He also turns 33 in June. Right corner Cedric Griffin had the cruel luck of tearing his ACL covering the overtime kickoff in the NFC championship game. He will likely start the season on the physically-unable-to-perform (PUP) list, with Sheppard taking over the spot until Griffin returns.

Cook, a huge cornerback, will compete for the nickel job and be groomed to eventually replace Winfield in 2011.

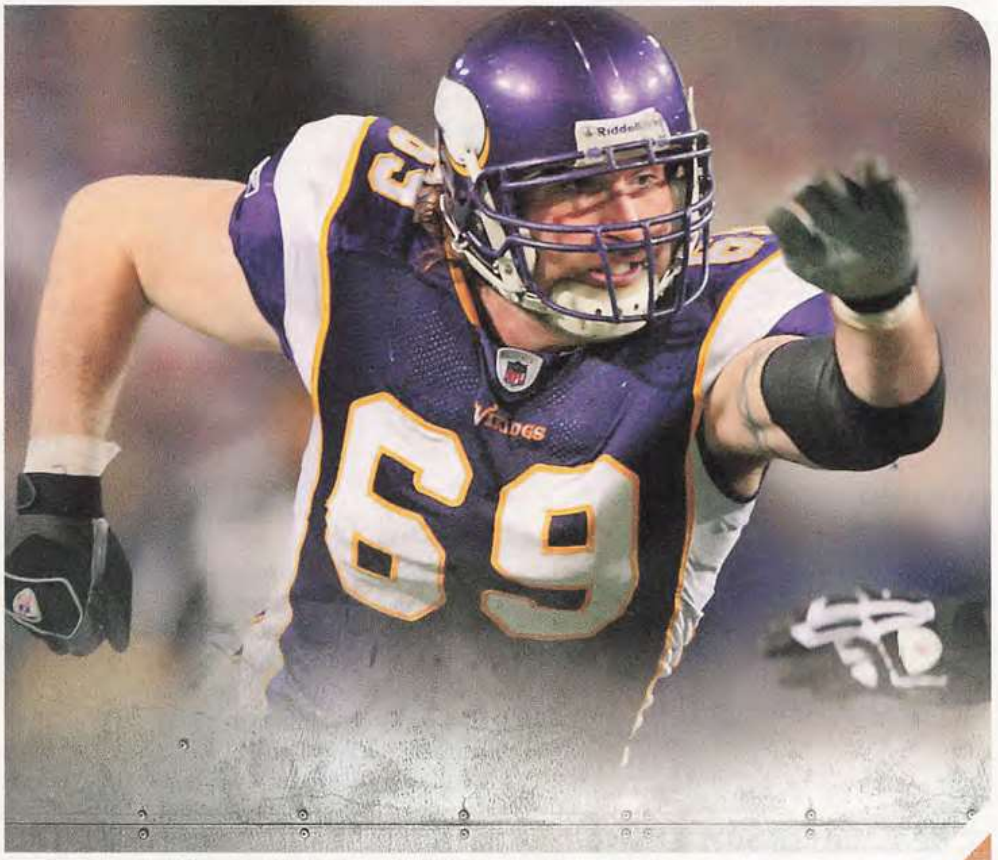
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

K Rhys Lloyd *(FA/Panthers)*, **DE Mike Montgomery** *(FA/Packers)*, **CB Lito Sheppard** *(FA/Jets)*

SUBTRACTIONS

RB Chester Taylor *(FA/Bears)*, **OT Artis Hicks** *(FA/Redskins)*



ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... JARED ALLEN

(how a rival sizes him up)

"He's a relentless rusher. He has a good combination of speed, power and technique. His numbers back those things up. I think you've got to chip the guy with a back out of the backfield, and you have to change things up. If you stay in the same pass set all the time, then he's going to find a way of beating you. So you have to change up your pass set on him. ...

"As far as what you'd call 'weaknesses,' he is a pass rusher, so if you look at their defensive front, I'd say he's No. 1 against the pass, but if you're talking about the run, I'd put him last among the four guys they have up front. Now, does that mean he's bad against the run? No. I'd say he's adequate at the point of attack. He gives good effort and all those things against the run, but it's different. Put it this way, against the pass, you have to game-plan for him. Against the run, you don't have to game-plan for him."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	222	10/10/1969	20	Southern Miss
7 Jackson, Tarvaris	QB	6-2	232	04/21/1983	5	Alabama State
2 Rosenfels, Sage	QB	6-4	224	03/06/1978	10	Iowa State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
78 Brown, Patrick	T	6-5	290	12/25/1986	1	UCF
75 Clark, Chris	T	6-5	290	10/01/1985	1	Southern Miss
62 Cook, Ryan	T	6-6	328	05/08/1983	5	New Mexico
68 Cooper, Jon	C	6-3	290	10/01/1986	2	Oklahoma
64 Herrera, Anthony	G	6-2	315	06/14/1980	7	Tennessee
76 Hutchinson, Steve	G	6-5	313	11/01/1977	10	Michigan
71 Loadholt, Phil	T	6-8	343	01/21/1986	2	Oklahoma
46 Loeffler, Cullen	C	6-5	241	01/27/1981	7	Texas
74 McKinnie, Bryant	T	6-8	335	09/23/1979	9	Miami (FL)
60 Radovich, Drew	T	6-5	305	06/20/1985	2	USC
65 Sullivan, John	C	6-4	301	08/08/1985	3	Notre Dame

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
42 Johnson, Ian	RB	6-0	198	09/25/1986	1	Boise State
Johnson, James	RB	5-11	200	09/06/1984	1	Kansas State
28 Peterson, Adrian	RB	6-1	217	03/21/1985	4	Oklahoma
82 Reynaud, Darius	RB	5-9	201	12/29/1986	3	West Virginia
38 Tahi, Naufahu	RB	6-0	254	10/30/1981	5	Brigham Young
34 Young, Albert	RB	5-10	209	02/25/1985	2	Iowa

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
87 Berrian, Bernard	WR	6-1	185	12/27/1980	7	Fresno State
19 Biddle, Taye	WR	6-1	160	02/27/1983	3	Mississippi
83 Dugan, Jeff	TE	6-4	258	04/08/1981	7	Maryland
12 Harvin, Percy	WR	5-11	192	05/28/1988	2	Florida
11 Johnson, Jaymar	WR	6-0	176	07/10/1984	2	Jackson State
40 Kleinsasser, Jim	TE	6-3	272	01/31/1977	12	North Dakota
45 Mills, Garrett	TE	6-1	235	10/12/1983	5	Tulsa
15 Perretta, Vinny	WR	5-9	186	10/14/1985	1	Boise State
18 Rice, Sidney	WR	6-4	202	09/01/1986	4	South Carolina
81 Shiancoe, Visanthe	TE	6-4	250	06/18/1980	8	Morgan State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
69 Allen, Jared	DE	6-6	270	04/03/1982	7	Idaho State
91 Edwards, Ray	DE	6-5	268	01/01/1985	5	Purdue
90 Evans, Fred	DT	6-4	305	11/06/1983	5	Texas State
98 Guion, Letroy	DT	6-4	303	06/21/1987	3	Florida State
95 Johnson, Tremaine	DE	6-2	273	09/26/1985	1	LSU
73 Kennedy, Jimmy	DT	6-4	320	11/15/1979	8	Penn State
92 Mitchell, Jayme	DE	6-6	285	03/15/1984	5	Mississippi
99 Montgomery, Mike	DE	6-5	273	08/18/1983	6	Texas A&M
96 Robison, Brian	DE	6-3	267	04/27/1983	4	Texas
93 Williams, Kevin	DT	6-5	311	08/16/1980	8	Oklahoma State
94 Williams, Pat	DT	6-3	317	10/24/1972	14	Texas A&M

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
39 Abdullah, Husain	S	6-0	204	07/27/1985	3	Washington State
21 Allen, Asher	CB	5-10	198	01/22/1988	2	Georgia
49 Anderson, Colt	S	5-11	195	10/25/1985	1	Montana
37 Frampton, Eric	S	5-11	205	02/06/1984	4	Washington State
23 Griffin, Cedric	CB	6-0	203	11/11/1982	5	Texas
25 Johnson, Tyrell	S	6-0	207	05/19/1985	3	Arkansas State
33 Sanford, Jamarca	S	5-10	214	08/27/1985	2	Mississippi
22 Sapp, Benny	CB	5-9	190	01/20/1981	7	Northern Iowa
Sheppard, Lito	CB	5-10	194	04/08/1981	9	Florida
20 Williams, Madieu	S	6-1	203	10/18/1981	7	Maryland
26 Winfield, Antoine	CB	5-9	180	06/24/1977	12	Ohio State
24 Wright, DeAndre	CB	5-11	193	04/13/1986	1	New Mexico

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
54 Brinkley, Jasper	LB	6-2	275	07/12/1985	2	South Carolina
59 Farwell, Heath	LB	6-0	235	12/31/1981	6	San Diego State
52 Greenway, Chad	LB	6-2	242	01/12/1983	5	Iowa
56 Henderson, E.J.	LB	6-1	245	08/03/1980	8	Maryland
50 Henderson, Erin	LB	6-3	244	07/01/1986	3	Maryland
51 Leber, Ben	LB	6-3	244	12/07/1978	9	Kansas State
57 Leman, Jeremy	LB	6-2	240	03/01/1985	1	Illinois
55 Onatolu, Kenny	LB	6-1	218	10/08/1982	2	Nebraska-Omaha

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Kluwe, Chris	P	6-4	215	12/24/1981	6	UCLA
9 Lloyd, Rhys	K	5-11	231	06/05/1982	4	Minnesota
8 Longwell, Ryan	K	6-0	200	08/16/1974	14	California

BRAD CHILDRESS, *Head coach*
Darrell Bevell, offensive coordinator; **Leslie Frazier**, assistant head coach/defensive coordinator; **Brian Murphy**, special teams coordinator; **Pat Morris**, offensive line; **Jim Hueber**, assistant offensive line; **Eric Bieniemy**, running backs; **Jimmie Johnson**, tight ends; **George Stewart**, wide receivers; **Kevin Rogers**, quarterbacks; **Joe Woods**, secondary; **Derek Mason**, secondary assistant; **Matt Sheldon**, secondary assistant; **Fred Pagac**, linebackers; **Karl Dunbar**, defensive line; **Diron Reynolds**, defensive line assistant

ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

There are also issues at safety. Strong safety Tyrell Johnson struggled in his first year as a starter. The 2008 second-round draft pick may still be developing, but he didn't display the instincts and tackling skills that are vital in the Tampa 2 scheme. Free safety Madieu Williams is experienced, but there are too many games in which he goes unnoticed.

Two promising young players to watch are cornerback Asher Allen and safety Jamarca Sanford. **GRADE: C-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

A wise under-the-radar move was made to improve an already solid special teams unit when free-agent kickoff specialist Rhys Lloyd was signed this offseason. Ryan Longwell is solid as one of the league's most dependable field goal kickers, but he doesn't have the ability to rack up touchbacks the way Lloyd can.

Punter Chris Kluwe is dependable, both in leg strength and his ability to keep punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line. Veteran long snapper Cullen Loeffler has a long-term contract and has given the team no reason to doubt that deal. Harvin made the Pro Bowl as a kickoff return man, while Reynaud has good hands and the strength and balance to break free as a punt return specialist. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

With Favre back, the Vikings look to again contend for the Super Bowl this season. But without him, scratch any hopes of a February flight to Texas.

Barring significant injuries, anything short of the Super Bowl with Favre on board will be a failure for a team that's built to win now.

The defensive line won't always be this dominant. Peterson's style lends itself to the possibility of a short career. And Favre can't play forever—at least that's the thought.

91
FINAL GRADE

STEADY
STOCK REPORT

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Sidney Rice and Visanthe Shiancoe combined for 19 TD receptions last season after totaling 16 the previous two seasons. Their value hinges on Brett Favre's return.

BUY
Adrian Peterson
RB

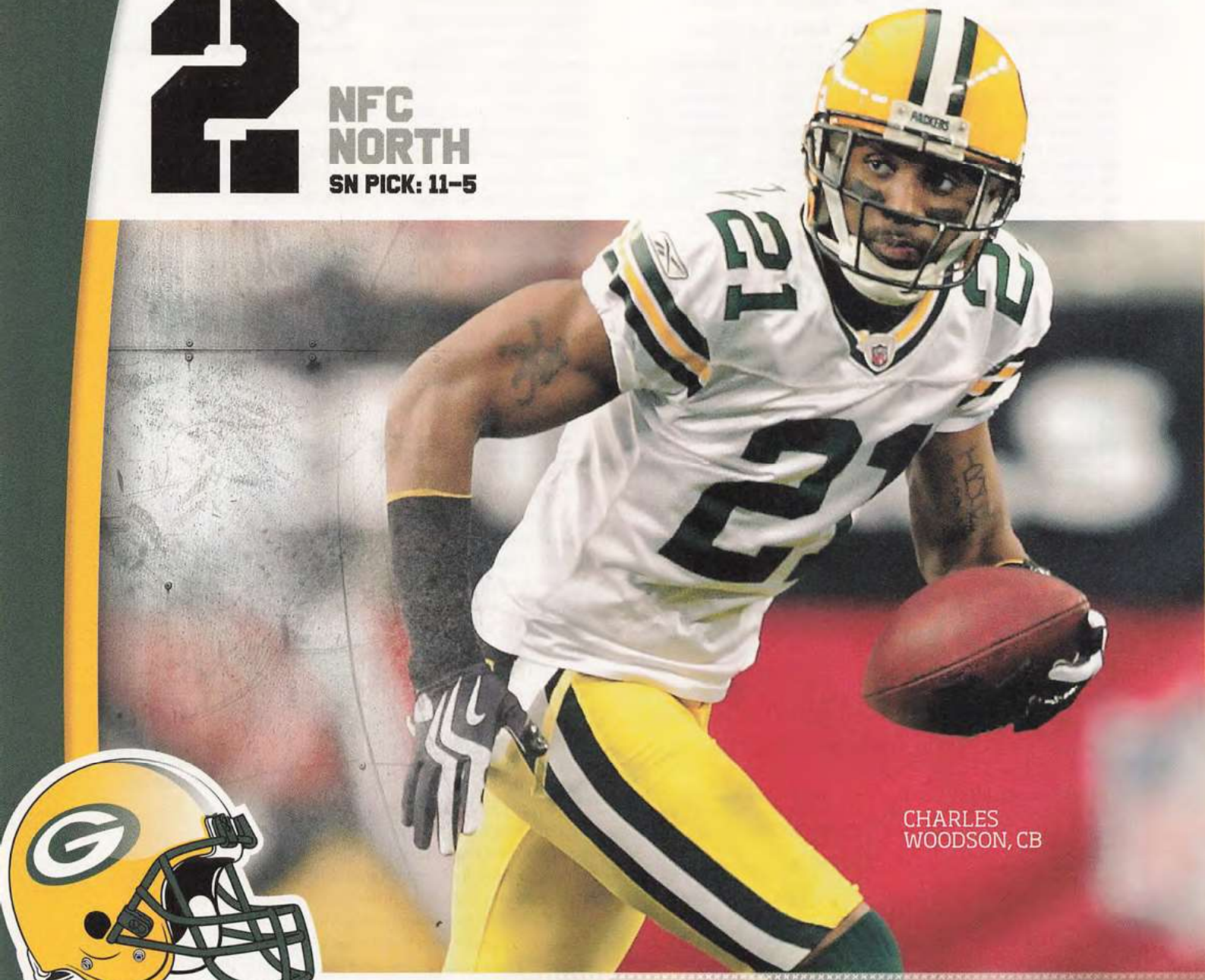
SELL
Bernard Berrian
WR

SLEEPER
Toby Gerhart
RB

2

NFC NORTH

SN PICK: 11-5



CHARLES WOODSON, CB

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Packers must shed youthful tag to reach Super Bowl hopes

By Tom Silverstein, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

Will the Green Bay Packers be forever young? Or is this the year they start filling out their uniforms and eating at the grownups' table?

After four straight seasons of being the youngest team in the NFL, it's time to find out.

General manager Ted Thompson's build-through-the-draft philosophy has served the organization well, but since the "Greybearded One" left two years ago, this team has wandered aimlessly looking for father figures to help guide it along the way.

Last year, there was evidence of the team standing on its own two legs, as Green Bay narrowly missed a shot at the NFL's Elite Eight in a 51-45 overtime loss to Arizona.

Thompson hasn't added any veteran free agents, but he did re-sign four key players of his own—nose tackle Ryan Pickett, safety Nick Collins and offensive tackles Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher—when in previous years he might have let them go. It may be that Thompson is seeing the light about no longer turning over his roster, because he wants to give this group another shot together.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers earned some spurs last year and will be among the many who will shed the label of "youngster." The success of this team will rest on their shoulders.

OFFENSE

Coach Mike McCarthy runs the show and his quarterback is an extension of him. McCarthy uses a basic West Coast scheme with a lot of route adjustments, timing patterns and run-pass options at the line of scrimmage. Formations vary so much from week to week that it's challenging for defensive coordinators to prepare their players for all the looks that are coming.

Offensive coordinator Joe Philbin is a former line coach who spends a lot of time directing the zone-blocking run game. But it will be a warm January day at Lambeau Field before McCarthy runs more than he passes.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ The Packers don't need more from Rodgers, not after he threw for 4,434 yards and 30 touchdowns with just seven interceptions last year.

They actually need less.

To become great, Rodgers must lower the number of sacks he took in 2009 (50), which means focusing less on going long and checking down more. Rodgers' commitment to reshaping his body has done wonders for his ability to avoid pressure with his feet, throw on the run and hurt defenses with his scrambling ability. He finished second in the league among quarterbacks in rushing with 316 yards last year and picked up 27 first downs on 61 rushes.

As one of the best deep throwers in the NFL, look for Rodgers to continue stretching out defenses with his arm. But he has to finish drives in order for this team to be successful.

Behind Rodgers, former seventh-round pick Matt Flynn has grown a lot, showing more strength in his arm and a better command of the offense. Flynn has the competitiveness to succeed, but he still must prove his physical limitations aren't too great. **GRADE: A-**

Running backs ▸▸ Ryan Grant is the kind of back who needs the ball a lot. His speed is in running away from defenders, not running past them, so he needs to play behind a line that is well-lathered and opening holes.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

CULLEN JENKINS — DE

Jenkins didn't adapt well to the 3-4 scheme last year and finished with just 4.5 sacks. Look for him to be more comfortable in 2010, as coordinator Dom Capers will find a way to get him isolated one-on-one more on passing downs.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Aaron Rodgers Matt Flynn
FB	John Kuhn Quinn Johnson
RB	Ryan Grant Brandon Jackson
LT	Chad Clifton Bryan Bulaga
LG	Jason Spitz Daryn Colledge
C	Scott Wells Jason Spitz
RG	Josh Sitton Evan Dietrich-Smith
RT	Mark Tauscher Allen Barbre
TE	Jermichael Finley Spencer Havner
WR	Donald Driver James Jones
WR	Greg Jennings Jordy Nelson
	DEFENSE
LE	Johnny Jolly B.J. Raji
NT	Ryan Pickett B.J. Raji
RE	Cullen Jenkins Jarius Wynn
OLB	Brad Jones Cyril Obiozor
ILB	A.J. Hawk Desmond Bishop
ILB	Nick Barnett Brandon Chillar
OLB	Clay Matthews Brady Poppinga
LCB	Charles Woodson Pat Lee
SS	Atari Bigby Derrick Martin
FS	Nick Collins Jarrett Bush
RCB	Tramon Williams Al Harris
	SPECIALISTS
K	Mason Crosby
P	Tim Masthay
KR	Will Blackmon
PR	Will Blackmon
LS	Brett Goode

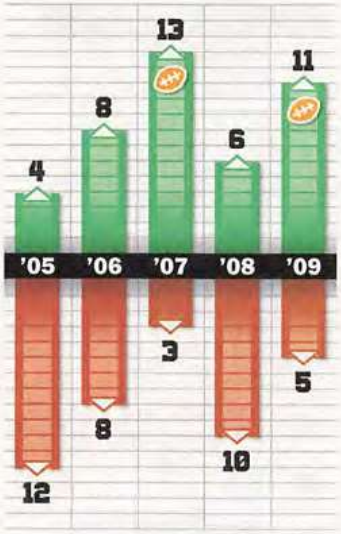
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 11-5 HOME: 5-3

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/packers
www.packers.com

STADIUM
Lambeau Field
Capacity: 72,922 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 920-569-7501
Training Camp: Clark Hinkle Field, Green Bay, Wis.; 920-569-7500

OPPOSITE PAGE: JAMIE SQUIRE / GETTY IMAGES

5-YEAR RECORD: 42-38



late in the season and finished seventh in the NFL with 1,253 rushing yards, adding 11 touchdowns.

Last year, the team relied on aging Ahman Green to back up Grant, but that won't be the case in 2010. That job will come from a group that includes Brandon Jackson, Kregg Lumpkin and DeShawn Wynn.

The three-headed fullback machine of John Kuhn, Korey Hall and Quinn Johnson looks to remain, although Johnson may start to get more work on running downs. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸▸ Jermichael Finley, welcome to the go-to position. It's yours if you want it.

Finley emerged as perhaps the most dynamic player on Green Bay's offense late in the year and, with improved maturity, has a chance to be one of the best tight ends in the league. He was almost unstoppable in the playoff game, piling up 159 yards on a combination of routes. Finley can be lined up wide or in the slot and is a matchup headache.

Donald Lee will give way to Finley in the starting lineup this year and fight for time with surprising Spencer Havner, a converted linebacker who caught four touchdowns last season.

At wide receiver, Donald Driver, Greg Jennings, James Jones, Jordy Nelson and Brett Swain all return, but the pecking order could change. Jennings is gradually overtaking Driver as Rodgers' main target, with Jones and Nelson battling for the No. 3 spot. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸▸ Under McCarthy, the offensive line has never been settled, but the return of Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher and the addition of first-round pick Bryan Bulaga provides stability the team didn't have last year.

Clifton will be 34 and Tauscher 33 by the time the season starts, so the Packers know they have to begin grooming some of their young tackles to take over. As a result, it's likely Bulaga will see time early. Clifton suffered through nagging injuries last year and when he couldn't play, it devastated the line.

The only position up for grabs is left guard, where Daryn Colledge could be unseated by highly regarded Jason Spitz, who missed most of last season with a back injury. Colledge is more athletic, but Spitz is stronger and anchors better. Spitz can also back up Scott Wells at center, while Josh Sitton returns at right guard.

The swingman on the line looks to be T.J. Lang, a 2009 fourth-round pick who showed promise as a rookie. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator Dom Capers is committed to the 3-4 scheme, relying heavily on linebackers to pressure the quarterback and zone coverage to blanket receivers. Capers works to exploit weaknesses on offensive lines with multiple-player pressures, but he is by no means blitz-crazy. He rarely sends more than five on attack, but it could be any five on the field. Stopping the run is paramount, and Capers relies on three beefy defensive

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Ryan Grant has averaged 59 rushing yards and five touchdowns in Games 1-8 and 85.6 yards and 18 TDs in Games 9-16 during his career. "Mr. December" remains an ideal No. 2 RB.

BUY
Aaron Rodgers
QB

SELL
Donald Driver
WR

SLEEPER
Jermichael Finley
TE

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	379.1	6
RUSHING	117.8	14
PASSING	261.3	7
SCORING	461	3
PUNT RETURNS	6.9	23
KICK RETURNS	22.1	19
RED ZONE TD %	54.8	9
TOTAL DEFENSE	284.4	2
AGAINST RUSH	83.3	1
AGAINST PASS	201.1	5
POINTS ALLOWED	297	7
INTERCEPTIONS	30	1
SACKS	37	11t
TURNOVER DIFF.	24	1

PACKERS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1	Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila *(2000-08)*	74.5
2	Reggie White *(1993-98)*	68.5
3	Tim Harris *(1986-90)*	55.0

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Packers)

"They pose a lot of challenges. Very talented group. Aaron Rodgers, all he's done is gotten better and better and better. He's got a very strong arm, a very quick release, he can throw the ball a country mile; when he leaves the pocket he has great foot speed, and they do things that he's comfortable doing. They do things that he likes to do. I think the receiving corps is outstanding. Ryan Grant's a great back, they've got great blockers at fullback, they've got some athletic, big, talented tight ends. So they're really talented."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	21-15	at Green Bay Packers
09/20	L	24-31	Cincinnati Bengals
09/27	W	36-17	at St. Louis Rams
10/05	L	23-30	at Minnesota Vikings
10/18	W	26-0	Detroit Lions
10/25	W	31-3	at Cleveland Browns
11/01	L	26-38	Minnesota Vikings
11/08	L	28-38	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/15	W	17-7	Dallas Cowboys
11/22	W	30-24	San Francisco 49ers
11/26	W	34-12	at Detroit Lions
12/07	W	27-14	Baltimore Ravens
12/13	W	21-14	at Chicago Bears
12/20	L	36-37	at Pittsburgh Steelers
12/27	W	48-10	Seattle Seahawks
01/03	W	33-7	at Arizona Cardinals

WON 11, LOST 5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Grant	282	1253	4.4	62	11
Rodgers	58	316	5.4	35	5
Green	41	160	3.9	26	1
Jackson	37	111	3.0	9	2
Wynn	6	19	3.2	6	0
Kuhn	8	18	2.3	5	1
Driver	1	13	13.0	13	0
Flynn	5	-5	-1.0	-1	0
PACKERS	438	1885	4.3	62	20
OPPONENTS	371	1333	3.6	42	5

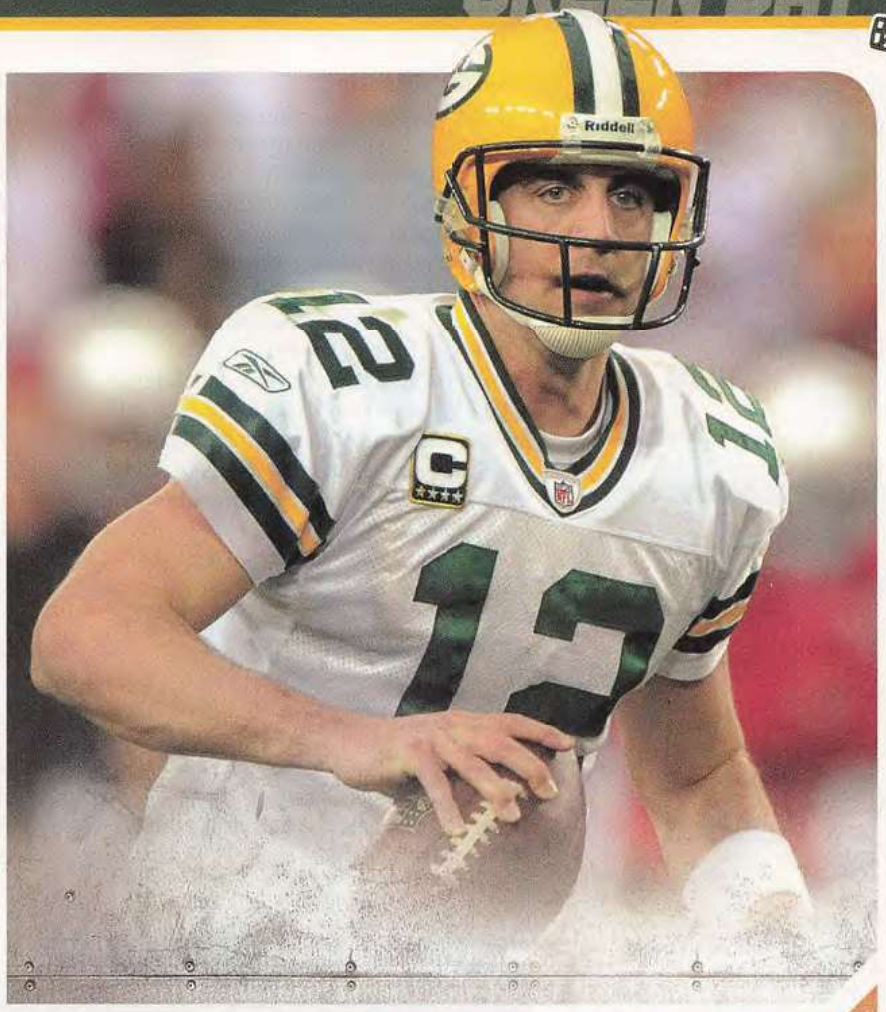
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Driver	70	1061	15.2	71	6
Jennings	68	1113	16.4	83	4
Finley	55	676	12.3	62	5
Lee	37	260	7.0	19	1
Jones	32	440	13.8	74	5
Grant	25	197	7.9	27	0
Nelson	22	320	14.5	51	2
Jackson	21	187	8.9	17	1
Havner	7	112	16.0	45	4
Kuhn	7	47	6.7	14	2
Hall	5	41	8.2	13	0
Green	3	18	6.0	12	0
Wynn	2	19	9.5	11	0
Johnson	2	4	2.0	4	0
Tauscher	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
PACKERS	438	4492	12.6	83	30
OPPONENTS	371	3218	10.9	68	29

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Rodgers	541	350	4434	30	7
Flynn	12	7	58	0	1
PACKERS	553	357	4492	30	8
OPPONENTS	540	294	3450	29	30

SACKS PACKERS 37, OPPONENTS 51

Matthews 10, Jenkins 4.5, Barnett 4, Jones 4, Kampman 3.5, Chillar 2, Woodson 2, Collins 1, Harris 1, Hawk 1, Jolly 1, Poppinga 1, Raji 1, Williams 1

NEWSCOM



THE BOOK ON ... AARON RODGERS

(how a rival sizes him up)

"He's a tough guy. He's a good quarterback. He makes plays. He has a good supporting cast around him. (Donald) Driver, (Greg) Jennings, those guys make plays. So, you know, he's a tough kid. He gets hit and he gets back up and he throws the ball."

linemen to eat up blocks.

Defensive line ▸▸ The combination of Ryan Pickett and 2009 first-round pick B.J. Raji gives Capers all the manpower he needs at nose tackle, which is the starting point for this unit.

Pickett is the starter and has really taken to the 3-4. He knows how to handle double teams and is the perfect team player. Raji never recovered from an ankle injury suffered last preseason but presumably will be better this year. He'll split time in the middle and at end, a position he can play because of his quickness.

It would be ideal if Raji played well enough at end that he and Pickett could be on the field at the same time on running downs. However, Raji will have beat out Johnny Jolly, who plays like he's possessed every down.

It's not pretty and he's limited in his pass rush ability, but Jolly is athletic, plays to the whistle and adds attitude to the unit. However, Jolly had a pending trial for a 2008 arrest on charges of felony possession of codeine and could face jail time and/or suspension if convicted.

The third piece of the puzzle is end Cullen Jenkins, who needed time to adapt to the 3-4 last year. No player was affected more on the line. Jenkins is a true 4-3 end with great pass rush ability but was forced to play with more discipline last year.

No one knows if former first-round pick Justin Harrell will finally get on the field after two years of back problems. This looks to be his last shot, though. Pass rusher Jarius Wynn has potential but needs to keep getting

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Philadelphia
SEPT. 12 | 4:15
— SCORE —

WEEK 2 Buffalo
SEPT. 19 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 3 @ Chicago
SEPT. 27 | 8:30
— SCORE —

WEEK 4 Detroit
OCT. 3 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 5 @ Washington
OCT. 10 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 6 Miami
OCT. 17 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 7 Minnesota
OCT. 24 | 8:20
— SCORE —

WEEK 8 @ N.Y. Jets
OCT. 31 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 9 Dallas
NOV. 7 | 8:20
— SCORE —

WEEK 10 OPEN DATE

WEEK 11 @ Minnesota
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 12 @ Atlanta
NOV. 28 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 13 San Francisco
DEC. 5 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 14 @ Detroit
DEC. 12 | 1:00
— SCORE —

WEEK 15 @ New England
DEC. 19 | 8:20
— SCORE —

WEEK 16 N.Y. Giants
DEC. 26 | 4:15
— SCORE —

WEEK 17 Chicago
JAN. 2 | 1:00
— SCORE —

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

stronger. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers This is the unit where the defense needs to improve the most.

There's plenty of talent with Nick Barnett, Clay Matthews, Brandon Chillar, A.J. Hawk, Brady Poppinga, Brad Jones and Desmond Bishop. Playing inside, Barnett is the leader. His role changed in the 3-4 and because he was coming off major knee surgery, it took him a long time to get going.

Capers liked this group so much he used a "psycho" package that featured five linebackers when injury struck his defensive line. This year though, he needs to sort out who deserves more playing time than others.

Matthews, who played like a 10-year veteran as a rookie and led the team with 10 sacks, will once again be the featured pass rusher. But Capers has to find someone who can take pressure off him from the other side now that Aaron Kampman has left for Jacksonville. Jones played solidly when Kampman was injured for half of last season, but wasn't dynamic.

Chillar is built like an outside linebacker and is a solid blitzer, so he could see the bulk of the time on third downs. Barnett may also get more chances at outside linebacker.

At the other inside slot, the coaches have to decide whether they want to stick with the pedestrian Hawk or give the rocket-fueled Bishop an opportunity. Hawk provides more security, but the Packers have to find a way to get the exciting Bishop on the field. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary It's likely cornerback Al Harris will start the season on the physically-unable-to-perform list while still recovering from a torn ACL suffered in November. That probably means Tramon Williams will keep the spot he took when Harris went down last year and the race will

OFFSEASON MOVES

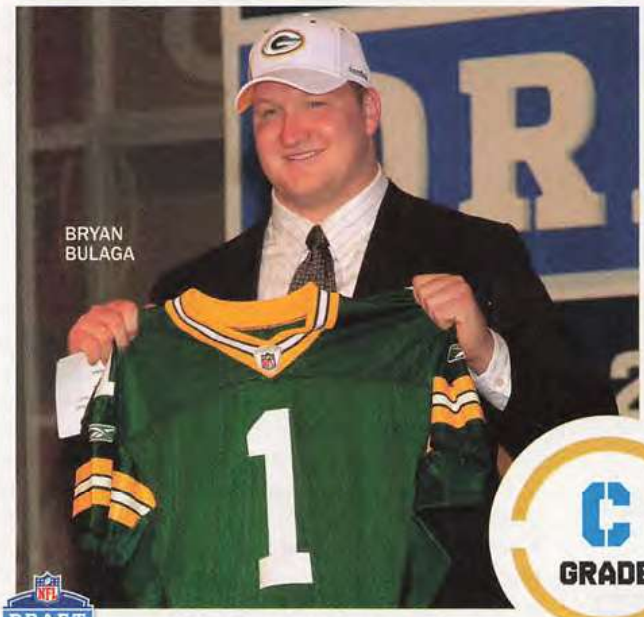
ADDITIONS

P Chris Bryan *(FA/Australia)*

SUBTRACTIONS

DE Aaron Kampman *(FA/Jaguars)*, **S Matt Giordano** *(FA/Falcons)*, **RB Ahman Green** *(FA)*, **P Jeremy Kapinos** *(FA)*, **RB DeShawn Wynn** *(FA)*, **DE Mike Montgomery** *(FA/Vikings)*

DRAFT REPORT



GRADE

The Packers' offensive line struggled throughout 2009, leaving Aaron Rodgers under heavy pressure all season. So they were smart to choose **Bryan Bulaga** at No. 23 overall, as he will stabilize the right side of the line immediately and give Rodgers time to work.

Defensive tackle **Mike Neal** was a reach in the second round, but he should fit well into Green Bay's 3-4 scheme. He has all the tools for the position, but needs to improve his ability to make plays after defeating a block. **Morgan Burnett** could become a productive starting safety if he gets better at reading the quarterback and tackling in the open field. The Packers snagged tight end **Andrew Quarless** and offensive tackle **Marshall Newhouse** in the fifth round. While both have the top-level athleticism for their positions, they have strived unsuccessfully to reach their potential and may never be more than backups in the NFL.

2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	23	Bryan Bulaga	OT	6-6	314	Iowa
2	24	Mike Neal	DT	6-3	294	Purdue
3	7	Morgan Burnett	S	6-2	209	Georgia Tech
5	23	Andrew Quarless	TE	6-5	254	Penn State
5	38	Marshall Newhouse	G	6-4	319	TCU
6	24	James Starks	RB	6-2	218	Buffalo
7	23	C.J. Wilson	DE	6-3	290	East Carolina

CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Flynn, Matt	QB	6-2	222	06/20/1985	3	LSU
13 Pizzotti, Chris	QB	6-5	225	06/29/1986	1	Harvard
12 Rodgers, Aaron	QB	6-2	220	12/02/1983	6	California

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
78 Barbre, Allen	T	6-4	305	06/22/1984	4	Missouri Southern State
76 Clifton, Chad	T	6-5	320	06/26/1976	11	Tennessee
73 Colledge, Daryn	G	6-4	308	02/11/1982	5	Boise State
64 Daniels, Stanley	G	6-4	320	11/30/1984	0	Washington
62 Dietrich-Smith, Evan	G	6-2	305	07/19/1986	2	Idaho State
68 Giacomini, Breno	T	6-7	311	09/27/1985	3	Louisville
61 Goode, Brett	C	6-1	261	11/02/1984	3	Arkansas
70 Lang, T.J.	G	6-4	316	09/20/1987	2	Eastern Michigan
71 Sitton, Josh	G	6-3	317	06/06/1986	3	UCF
72 Spitz, Jason	C	6-3	302	12/19/1982	5	Louisville
65 Tauscher, Mark	T	6-3	316	06/17/1977	11	Wisconsin
63 Wells, Scott	C	6-2	303	01/17/1981	7	Tennessee

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25 Grant, Ryan	RB	6-1	226	12/09/1982	4	Notre Dame
35 Hall, Korey	RB	6-0	243	08/05/1983	4	Boise State
32 Jackson, Brandon	RB	5-10	220	10/02/1985	4	Nebraska
45 Johnson, Quinn	RB	6-1	250	09/30/1986	2	LSU
30 Kuhn, John	RB	6-0	259	09/09/1982	5	Shippensburg
28 Lumpkin, Kregg	RB	5-11	228	05/15/1984	2	Georgia

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
83 Crabtree, Tom	TE	6-4	245	11/04/1985	1	Miami (OH)
17 Dillon, Charles	WR	6-0	191	01/30/1986	0	Washington State
80 Driver, Donald	WR	6-0	194	02/02/1975	12	Alcorn State
88 Finley, Jermichael	TE	6-5	247	03/26/1987	3	Texas
41 Havner, Spencer	TE	6-3	248	02/02/1983	2	UCLA
85 Jennings, Greg	WR	5-11	198	09/21/1983	5	Western Michigan
89 Jones, James	WR	6-1	218	03/31/1984	4	San Jose State
86 Lee, Donald	TE	6-4	248	08/31/1980	8	Mississippi State
87 Nelson, Jordy	WR	6-3	217	05/31/1985	3	Kansas State
16 Swain, Brett	WR	6-0	203	06/21/1985	2	San Diego State
18 Williams, Patrick	WR	6-1	204	01/13/1986	1	Colorado

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
91 Harrell, Justin	DT	6-4	320	02/14/1984	3	Tennessee
77 Jenkins, Cullen	DE	6-2	305	01/20/1981	7	Central Michigan
97 Jolly, Johnny	DE	6-3	320	02/21/1983	5	Texas A&M
79 Pickett, Ryan	DT	6-2	330	10/08/1979	10	Ohio State
90 Raji, B.J.	DT	6-2	337	07/11/1986	2	Boston College
95 Talley, Ronald	DE	6-3	282	02/21/1986	1	Delaware
93 Toribio, Anthony	DT	6-1	305	03/01/1985	2	Carson-Newman
94 Wynn, Jarius	DE	6-3	277	08/29/1986	2	Georgia

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
26 Bell, Josh	CB	5-11	177	01/08/1985	3	Baylor
20 Bigby, Atari	S	5-11	213	09/19/1981	5	UCF
27 Blackmon, Will	CB	6-0	206	10/27/1984	5	Boston College
24 Bush, Jarrett	CB	6-0	200	05/21/1984	5	Utah State
43 Clark, D.J.	CB	6-2	200	11/30/1986	1	Idaho State
36 Collins, Nick	S	5-11	207	08/16/1983	6	Bethune-Cookman
39 Ford, Trevor	CB	6-0	188	02/19/1986	2	Troy
31 Harris, Al	CB	6-1	190	12/07/1974	13	Texas A&M-Kingsville
22 Lee, Pat	CB	6-0	194	02/20/1984	2	Auburn
23 Jones, Khalil	S	6-2	223	12/10/1985	1	Miami (FL)
29 Martin, Derrick	S	5-10	202	05/16/1985	5	Wyoming
33 Underwood, Brandon	CB	6-1	198	06/24/1986	2	Cincinnati
38 Williams, Tramon	CB	5-11	191	03/16/1983	4	Louisiana Tech
21 Woodson, Charles	CB	6-1	202	10/07/1976	13	Michigan

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
56 Barnett, Nick	LB	6-2	236	05/27/1981	8	Oregon State
55 Bishop, Desmond	LB	6-2	238	07/24/1984	4	California
54 Chillar, Brandon	LB	6-3	243	10/21/1982	7	UCLA
49 Francois, Rob	LB	6-2	253	05/14/1985	1	Boston College
50 Hawk, A.J.	LB	6-1	248	01/06/1984	5	Ohio State
59 Jones, Brad	LB	6-3	232	04/01/1986	2	Colorado
52 Matthews, Clay	LB	6-3	245	05/14/1986	2	USC
57 Obiozor, Cyril	LB	6-4	267	09/26/1986	1	Texas A&M
51 Poppinga, Brady	LB	6-3	247	09/21/1979	6	Brigham Young
99 Thompson, Jeremy	LB	6-4	270	10/09/1985	3	Wake Forest

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Bryan, Chris	P	6-5	210	03/06/1982	0	None
2 Crosby, Mason	K	6-1	207	09/03/1984	4	Colorado
8 Masthay, Tim	P	6-1	197	03/16/1987	1	Kentucky

MIKE McCARTHY, *Head coach*
Joe Philbin, offensive coordinator; **Dom Capers,** defensive coordinator; **Shawn Slocum,** special teams coordinator; **Chad Morton,** special teams assistant; **Jame Campen,** offensive line; **Jerry Fontenot,** assistant offensive line; **Edgar Bennett,** running backs; **Ben McAdoo,** tight ends; **Jimmy Robinson,** wide receivers; **Tom Clements,** quarterbacks; **Joe Whitt Jr.,** secondary/corners; **Darren Perry,** secondary/safties; **Kevin Greene,** outside linebackers; **Winston Moss,** assistant head coach/inside linebackers; **Mike Trgovac,** defensive line

Harris went down last year and the race will be on to find nickel and dime corners.

Despite the presence of 2009 NFL Defensive Player of the Year Charles Woodson, who was magnificent with nine interceptions, two sacks and four forced fumbles, teams found that the Packers couldn't deal with spread offenses because of their lack of depth in the secondary. Injuries to Pat Lee and Will Blackmon left special teamer Jarrett Bush and rookie Brandon Underwood as the backups.

A lot will now be expected of Lee, a second-round pick who has contributed next to nothing in two years. He was having a solid camp before suffering a season-ending knee injury. Blackmon is coming off ACL surgery and is better as a return man than a cornerback.

Underwood could be the X-factor. He was a late-round pick last year but has the lean strength of Harris and could become a good bump-and-run corner. Atari Bigby and Nick Collins will again man the two safety spots, as both are coming off solid 2009 campaigns. **GRADE: B-**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE McCARTHY

McCarthy plays the game with a macho style. He's not afraid to go for it on fourth down; he'll spring unexpected onside kicks; he challenges borderline calls; and he hardly blinks an eye when the team commits a physical penalty. McCarthy isn't reckless, but he leans toward being a risk-taker.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Green Bay's glaring hole is at punter.

Thompson has pooh-poohed the position in the past, which it has cost the team. Jeremy Kapinos was let go in the offseason, leaving free agent Tim Masthay and Australian Chris Bryan to handle the chore. Neither has punted in an NFL game and both could be gone the minute a veteran gets cut this summer.

Mason Crosby was unreliable on long kicks last season despite his big leg. This is a critical year for him because he has not come through on enough clutch kicks to justify sticking around. His kickoffs are good though, which is a big reason he has some job security.

The return game was not up to par last year, and Nelson will battle Blackmon for the punt and kickoff roles. This should be an area of emphasis during training camp.

Long snapper Brett Goode is back after having been flawless over the past two years. **GRADE: C-**

BOTTOM LINE

This team isn't loaded with difference-makers, but the offense is one of the best in the NFL because of Rodgers and the receivers, and the defense has a shot at being solid.

If McCarthy can shore up the special teams and back up his offensive tackles, the Packers should have what it takes to compete for an NFC championship.

89

FINAL GRADE

UP

STOCK REPORT

3

NFC NORTH

SN PICK: 8-8

CHICAGO BEARS

JULIUS PEPPERS, DE

Addition of Peppers should spice things up in Windy City

By Gene Chamberlain, *correspondent*

This season is all about survival for a Chicago Bears coaching regime that has received every possible bit of support from management and ownership in the offseason.

"We haven't made the playoffs in three years," says coach Lovie Smith, who has two years left on his contract. "Normally, if you haven't done that, there's rumblings going on."

Allowed to promote good friend Rod Marinelli to defensive coordinator and hire former boss Mike Martz to run the offense, Smith also got the pass rusher needed for his cover 2 scheme in Julius Peppers—to the tune of $91 million.

The defense will also benefit from the return of leader Brian Urlacher, back from the dislocated wrist that wiped out his entire 2009 season, and a healthy Tommie Harris at tackle.

Injuries, talent shortages and inexperienced assistant coaches are no longer convenient fallbacks in case of failure. Smith's Bears have reached the sink-or-swim point.

OFFENSE

Martz's addition makes for an interesting contrast. Smith abhors turnovers, yet Martz's offenses are turnover-prone due to a de-emphasized running game and an emphasis on throwing downfield with seven-step quarterback drops.

During Martz's 10 NFL seasons as a head coach and offensive coordinator, his teams have been at or near the top 10 in fumbles lost, interceptions thrown and sacks allowed. It's going to be a high-risk, high-reward offense being run by quarterback Jay Cutler, who epitomizes that philosophy.

Quarterbacks Cutler starts his second Bears season in his second offensive system. The team can only hope it doesn't take him as long to function proficiently as it did in fired ex-coordinator Ron Turner's offense. He threw eight touchdown passes and one interception in the final two games but had 25 interceptions and 19 touchdowns during the first 14 contests.

Cutler seems an ideal fit for Martz's system with his size, big arm and willingness to gamble downfield. But he'll also force passes into coverage, which could make for a colossal problem. This system also requires quick reads with rapid decision-making on the fly. Audibles give way to an emphasis on sight reads and adjustments.

Cutler's mobility provides Martz with something he has never had, and it will be interesting to see if the Bears can get him outside on the edge, throwing downfield where he can be most dangerous.

Potential exists for both great success and complete disaster. If anything happens to Cutler, Caleb Hanie has a good arm but almost no NFL experience. **GRADE: B**

Running backs Both Matt Forté and Chester Taylor fit the exact mold for a running back in Martz's system. Both are good receivers and block well enough in the passing game. Taylor has averaged 40 catches over the past five seasons, compared to Forté's average of 60 in his first two campaigns.

Although Forté is younger and a two-year starter, he could get a challenge from Taylor to start. Taylor is a more effective runner in traffic and short-yardage situations. Forté struggled in short yardage last year but is a greater breakaway threat when healthy.

The two should complement one another not only because of their playing styles, but because they give the Bears two effective backs for a change. Forté

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

CHRIS WILLIAMS — **OT**

Although he produced nothing as a rookie with a back injury, and was mediocre at right tackle in 2009, Williams showed signs of being an effective left tackle after replacing Orlando Pace. He needs to improve at run blocking, however.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Jay Cutler Caleb Hanie
FB	Eddie Williams Will Ta'ufo'ou
RB	Matt Forté Chester Taylor
LT	Chris Williams Kevin Shaffer
LG	Josh Beekman Lance Louis
C	Olin Kreutz Josh Beekman
RG	Roberto Garza Lance Louis
RT	Frank Omiyale Kevin Shaffer
TE	Greg Olsen Brandon Manumaleuna
WR	Devin Hester Johnny Knox
WR	Earl Bennett Devin Aromashodu
	DEFENSE
DE	Julius Peppers Mark Anderson
DT	Tommie Harris Jarron Gilbert
DT	Anthony Adams Marcus Harrison
DE	Israel Idonije Henry Melton
SLB	Pisa Tinoisamoa Nick Roach
MLB	Brian Urlacher Hunter Hillenmeyer
WLB	Lance Briggs Nick Roach
LCB	Charles Tillman Corey Graham
SS	Chris Harris Al Afalava
FS	Major Wright Josh Bullocks
RCB	Zackary Bowman D.J. Moore
	SPECIALISTS
K	Robbie Gould
P	Brad Maynard
KR	Danieal Manning
PR	Devin Hester
LS	Patrick Mannelly

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 7-9 **HOME: 5-3**

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www.chicagobears.com

STADIUM
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Tickets: 847-615-2327
Training Camp: Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Ill.; 815-928-5821

CHRIS WALKER / CHICAGO TRIBUNE / MCT / NEWSCOM

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

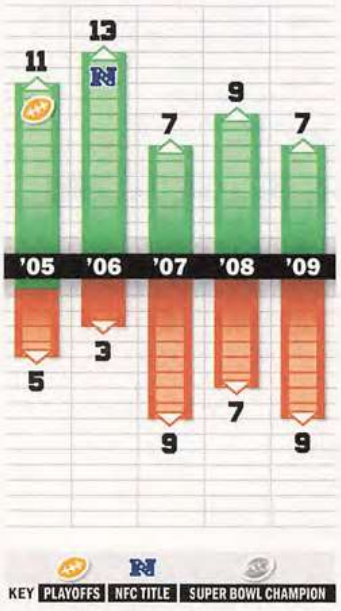
(an opponent breaks down the Bears)

"They've gotten older and they haven't had a lot of top young talent support come in. Their offensive line hasn't been the same since they had Ruben Brown at guard and John Tait at tackle, and Thomas Jones was running behind them. They used to be able to keep their defense off the field. They don't now. It might help them having Mike Tice as O-line coach. ...

"Their defense doesn't force the turnovers they used to, and I think a lot of this went away when they fired (former defensive coordinator Ron) Rivera. He brought something different, more blitzing, or really, I guess, how to blitz. You don't see a lot of the Bears blitzing and getting to the quarterback, but they should be able to do it. Other teams in cover 2 seem like they can blitz and get there. They needed a change on offense because they'd gotten predictable and (new offensive coordinator Mike) Martz should really help.

"No question (Julius) Peppers is going to help that defense, but they have problems. ... Like I said, they are older now. It's a younger man's league."

5-YEAR RECORD: 47-33



has been overworked to the point of abuse, with 694 touches in two years. He suffered a knee sprain in Week 3 against Seattle that plagued him all of 2009 and led to offseason arthroscopic surgery. A fresher Forté should look more like the rookie of 2008 who provided refreshing improvement over Cedric Benson. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸▸ A great finish to 2009 left Chicago's receivers feeling positive, but that improvement came in a different offense. This is still an inexperienced group without a bona fide No. 1 threat.

They'll need time to adjust to an offensive playbook twice as thick as last year's. Martz has said Devin Hester will play a role similar of former Rams wideout/special teamer Az Hakim, lining up in the slot some while focusing more on returns than last year. This will open the way for greater use of second-year speed receiver Johnny Knox, who caught more passes (45) than any rookie wide receiver in team history. Knox seems a perfect fit for Martz's offense as a vertical threat.

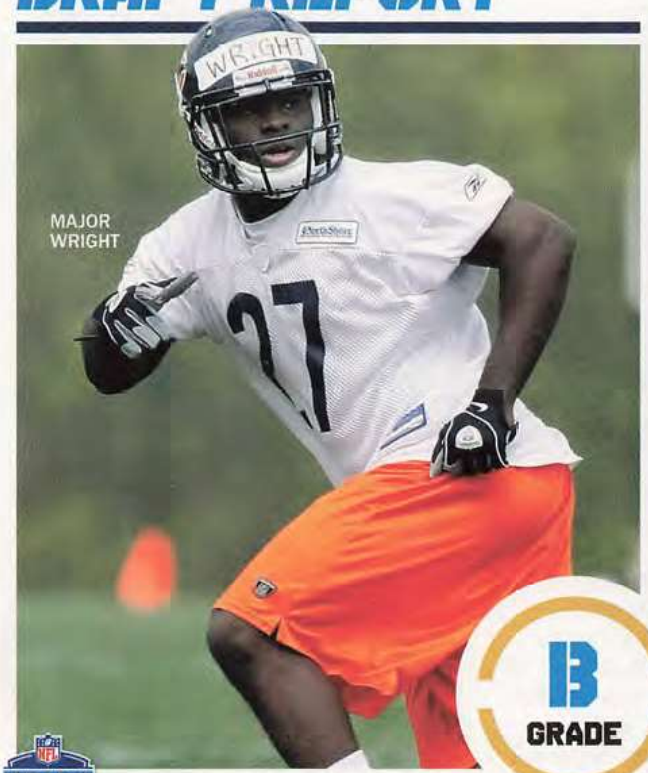
Also, it can be expected that Devin Aromashodu will be more involved after making 22 catches and four TDs during the final four weeks when he finally received playing time. Starter Earl Bennett fits in as the possession receiver who can get open down the middle.

The real question is whether Martz can make proper use of the Bears' best receiver, tight end Greg Olsen. Martz was unable to get Vernon Davis involved enough in San Francisco. Traditionally, Martz's tight ends have been oversized blockers like free-agent signee Brandon Manumaleuna. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▸▸ The greatest question mark about the offense isn't Cutler's decision-making or inexperienced receivers, but a line that is revamped yet again.

The line performed better late last year when Chris Williams moved to left tackle, but he still has only five NFL starts at a

DRAFT REPORT



SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
3	11	Major Wright	S	6-0	206	Florida
4	11	Corey Wootton	DE	6-6	270	Northwestern
5	10	Joshua Moore	CB	5-11	188	Kansas State
6	12	Dan LeFevour	QB	6-3	230	Central Michigan
7	11	J'Marcus Webb	OT	6-8	328	West Texas A&M

The Bears didn't pick until the third round, when they drafted **Major Wright**, an explosive safety who makes hard, violent hits. Given the Bears' late start, they found a gem and immediate starter who is productive in run support and pass coverage. Defensive end **Corey Wootton** missed all of 2009 with a knee injury but played well in '08 and was a steal in the fourth round. He will be a force at the point of attack with his size and athleticism.

Cornerback **Joshua Moore** is a top-level athlete who will dominate his position if he can overcome issues regarding his work ethic and maturity. **J'Marcus Webb** is a large, athletic offensive tackle who needs to prove he can stay focused on the field. **Dan LeFevour** could be the Bears' quarterback of the future if current starter Jay Cutler implodes. LeFevour has the talent to be given a chance.

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	15-21	at Green Bay Packers
09/20	W	17-14	Pittsburgh Steelers
09/27	W	25-19	at Seattle Seahawks
10/04	W	48-24	Detroit Lions
10/18	L	14-21	at Atlanta Falcons
10/25	L	10-45	at Cincinnati Bengals
11/01	W	30-6	Cleveland Browns
11/08	L	21-41	Arizona Cardinals
11/12	L	6-10	at San Francisco 49ers
11/22	L	20-24	Philadelphia Eagles
11/29	L	10-36	at Minnesota Vikings
12/06	W	17-9	St. Louis Rams
12/13	L	14-21	Green Bay Packers
12/20	L	7-31	at Baltimore Ravens
12/28	W	36-30	Minnesota Vikings
01/03	W	37-23	at Detroit Lions

WON 7, LOST 9

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Forté	258	929	3.6	61	4
Bell	40	220	5.5	72	0
Cutler	40	173	4.3	30	1
Wolfe	22	120	5.5	36	1
Peterson	7	51	7.3	15	0
Hester	6	-1	-0.2	7	0
BEARS	373	1492	4.0	72	6
OPPONENTS	467	2022	4.3	62	14

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Olsen	60	612	10.2	41	8
Hester	57	757	13.3	48	3
Forté	57	471	8.3	37	0
Bennett	54	717	13.3	71	2
Knox	45	527	11.7	68	5
Aromashodu	24	298	12.4	39	4
Clark	19	145	7.6	26	2
K. Davis	9	75	8.3	18	3
R. Davis	5	35	7.0	10	0
McKie	5	13	2.6	8	0
Wolfe	2	12	6.0	12	0
Peterson	2	11	5.5	7	0
Bell	1	4	4.0	4	0
BEARS	340	3677	10.8	71	27
OPPONENTS	341	3382	9.9	50	29

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Cutler	555	336	3666	27	26
Hanie	7	3	11	0	1
Maynard	1	1	0	0	0
BEARS	563	340	3677	27	27
OPPONENTS	531	341	3654	29	13

SACKS BEARS 35, OPPONENTS 35

Ogunleye 6.5, Brown 6, Anderson 3.5, Briggs 2.5, Harris 2.5, Hillenmeyer 2.5, Idonjie 2.5, Adams 2, Afalava 2, Harrison 1, Manning 1, Roach 2

INSIDE THE HEADSET

LOVIE SMITH

The only thing more conservative about Smith than his coaching style is the way he handles the press. He'll punt in the middle of the field in quest of better field position; he doesn't like trying field goals from long range; and he avoids going for it late in games, believing his defense will always get the ball back.

vital spot. Center Olin Kreutz will be 33 when the season begins and is coming off bone spur surgery. He and right guard Roberto Garza are the most stable performers on a line responsible for a running game that converted only 14 of 22 third-and-one runs last year, ranking 23rd in the NFL.

Expect uncertainty over whether left guard Frank Omiyale will be able to shift and play right tackle in this offense. It could last right up to training camp. The need for a young, massive and mauling right tackle is dire for the Bears to protect Cutler in a scheme that places extreme pressure on tackles by operating with few three-step and five-step drops. **GRADE: D+**

DEFENSE

Although Marinelli has never been a defensive coordinator, it won't be hard to determine how the switch will change things. This is the same cover 2 scheme Smith and Marinelli coached under Tony Dungy in Tampa. The philosophy remains in getting rush men upfield into gaps, pressuring with only the front four and forcing passes to be thrown into zone coverages. The ultimate goal is creating turnovers.

It's vanilla but effective with the right personnel. However, without proper talent, it can also be predictable and passive.

Defensive line Peppers is a quarterback's nightmare who has a reputation for taking downs off. Even so, he'll require double teams, which should allow Harris, who finished last year playing his best ball since 2006, to penetrate inside. The key to the defensive line's success is Harris maintaining his health and a healthy attitude—two things he hasn't always done the last few years.

Much is expected of defensive end Mark Anderson after the death of Gaines Adams, the release of Alex Brown and Adewale Ogunleye's departure via free agency. Anderson showed glimpses late last season of the 12-sack presence he was as a rookie in 2006. However, the glimpse was fleeting and he's failed in the past, so it's difficult to put much trust in him. The Bears' insurance policy is Israel Idonije, who has played effectively at both tackle and end.

Second-year tackle Jarron Gilbert is needed to fill a relief role at tackle but showed nothing last year. The nose spot might still belong to overachieving, undersized veteran Anthony Adams because Marcus Harrison succumbs to spells of laziness. Overall, the talent is there, but production is still lacking. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers The impact of Urlacher's return is so far-reaching that it could affect every position on defense. The Bears are 7-15 when Urlacher doesn't start during Smith's tenure. When he plays they give up 5.7 fewer points and 27.8 fewer yards while forcing 0.6 more turnovers per game.

And Chicago's lack of a legitimate free safety isn't exposed deep over

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	310.3	23
RUSHING	93.3	29
PASSING	217.1	17
SCORING	327	19
PUNT RETURNS	8.5	15
KICK RETURNS	25.0	3
RED ZONE TD %	47.1	27
TOTAL DEFENSE	337.8	17
AGAINST RUSH	126.4	23
AGAINST PASS	211.4	13
POINTS ALLOWED	375	21t
INTERCEPTIONS	13	22t
SACKS	35	13t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-6	23

BEARS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Richard Dent** *(1983-95)* — 124.5
2. **Steve McMichael** *(1981-93)* — 92.5
3. **Dan Hampton** *(1979-89)* — 57.0

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	Detroit	SEPT. 12 1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	@ Dallas	SEPT. 19 1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	Green Bay	SEPT. 27 8:30	W / L
WEEK 4	@ N.Y. Giants	OCT. 3 8:20	W / L
WEEK 5	@ Carolina	OCT. 10 1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	Seattle	OCT. 17 1:00	W / L
WEEK 7	Washington	OCT. 24 1:00	W / L
»» WEEK 8	OPEN DATE		
WEEK 9	Buffalo*	NOV. 7 1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	Minnesota	NOV. 14 1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ Miami	NOV. 18 8:20	W / L
WEEK 12	Philadelphia	NOV. 28 1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	@ Detroit	DEC. 5 1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	New England	DEC. 12 1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	@ Minnesota	DEC. 20 8:30	W / L
WEEK 16	N.Y. Jets	DEC. 26 1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	@ Green Bay	JAN. 2 1:00	W / L

SCORE

** In Toronto*

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

the middle in zone coverage as often when Urlacher is present. At 32, Urlacher still has the speed to maintain his high level.

The re-signing of Pisa Tinoisamoa allows the Bears to return the same linebacker corps intact. That group includes Lance Briggs, who has been to five straight Pro Bowls and might be their best player. The depth here is experienced with Nick Roach and Hunter Hillenmeyer. **GRADE: B+**

Secondary »» Whether it comes from 2010 third-round pick Major Wright, veteran Josh Bullocks or the group of Danieal Manning, Al Afalava and Craig Steltz, the Bears have to find a free safety with range and intelligence capable of supporting the cover 2.

Bullocks gave coaches hope late last season, but the improvement was minimal. Manning failed there and is better at nickel back. The Bears brought back strong safety

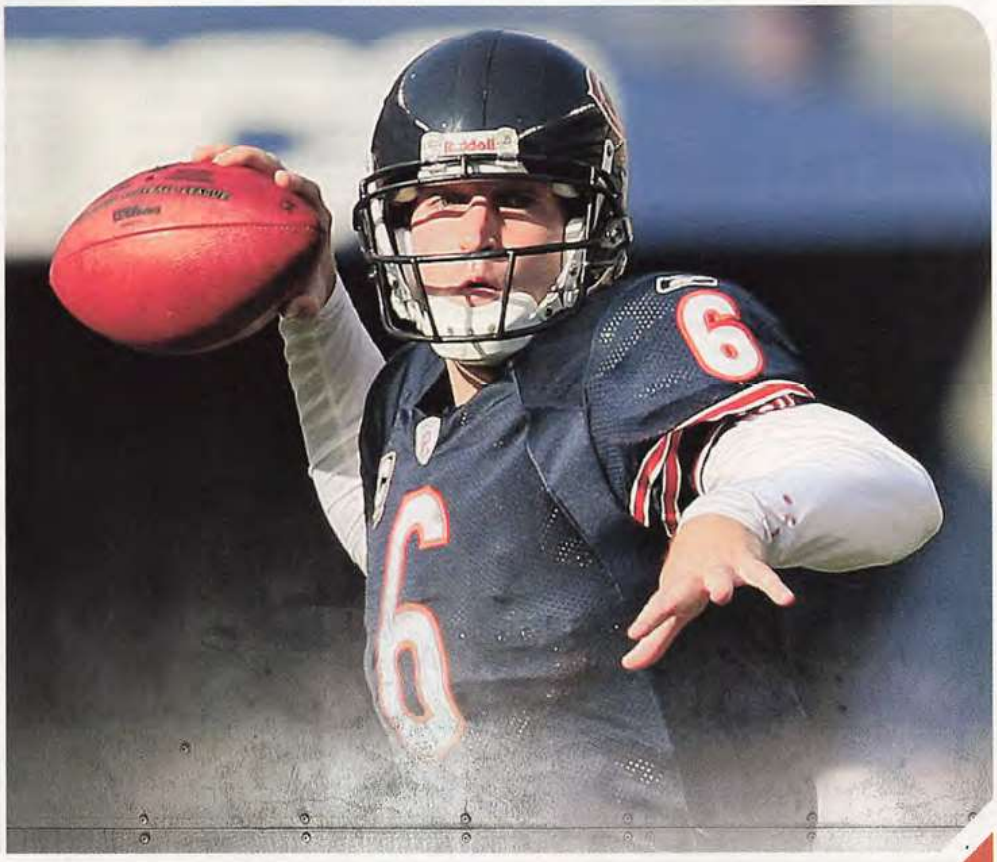
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

DE Julius Peppers *(FA/Panthers)*, **RB Chester Taylor** *(FA/Vikings)*, **S Chris Harris** *(trade/Panthers)*, **TE Brandon Manumaleuna** *(FA/Chargers)*, **CB Tim Jennings** *(FA/Colts)*

SUBTRACTIONS

DE Adewale Ogunleye *(FA)*, **LB Jamar Williams** *(trade/Panthers)*, **OT Orlando Pace** *(FA)*, **RB Kevin Jones** *(FA)*, **CB Nathan Vasher** *(FA/Chargers)*, **DE Alex Brown** *(FA/Saints)*, **S Kevin Payne** *(trade/Rams)*



RICH GABRIELSON

THE BOOK ON ... JAY CUTLER

(how a rival sizes him up)

"There's really no one we see with an arm like Jay. He gets a lot of crap about the interceptions and all, but he's an accurate passer. The ball is usually right where the receiver needs it and it's there like that (fast). You've got to defend the whole field with that arm, so he's always putting pressure on you. Last year it looked like he lost confidence and his fundamentals broke down, but I'm sure they'll have that addressed. ...

"You're probably better off mixing and disguising coverages on him because if you go man, he stays there against the blitz and delivers it or rolls out and is tough out on the edge. Sometimes when he's out in the open throwing, it's like he has some tunnel vision or stubbornness. By that I mean he sees an open receiver and will be so intent on getting it to the guy that he doesn't see something develop late in the defense; you know, like a safety or nickel cheating over. I imagine he does see it happening sometimes, but with his arm he just thinks he can get away with throwing it."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
14 Basanez, Brett	QB	6-2	210	05/11/1983	3	Northwestern
6 Cutler, Jay	QB	6-3	233	04/29/1983	5	Vanderbilt
12 Hanie, Caleb	QB	6-2	225	09/11/1985	3	Colorado State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
62 Asiata, Johan	G	6-4	310	12/19/1985	1	UNLV
67 Beekman, Josh	G	6-2	310	06/30/1983	4	Boston College
63 Garza, Roberto	G	6-2	310	03/26/1979	10	Texas A&M-Kingsville
57 Kreutz, Olin	C	6-2	292	06/09/1977	13	Washington
60 Louis, Lance	G	6-2	303	04/24/1985	2	San Diego State
65 Mannelly, Patrick	C	6-5	265	04/18/1975	13	Duke
72 Marten, James	T	6-7	309	04/18/1984	4	Boston College
68 Omiyale, Frank	G	6-4	310	11/23/1982	6	Tennessee Tech
78 Shaffer, Kevin	T	6-5	315	03/02/1980	9	Tulsa
74 Williams, Chris	T	6-6	312	08/26/1985	3	Vanderbilt

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Bell, Kahlil	RB	6-0	219	12/10/1986	2	UCLA
22 Forté, Matt	RB	6-2	216	12/10/1985	3	Tulane
37 McKie, Jason	RB	5-11	243	05/22/1980	9	Temple
45 Ta'ufo'ou, Will	RB	5-11	253	06/19/1986	1	California
29 Taylor, Chester	RB	5-11	213	09/22/1979	9	Toledo
25 Wolfe, Garrett	RB	5-7	186	08/17/1984	4	Northern Illinois

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
85 Angulo, Richard	TE	6-8	266	08/13/1980	6	Western New Mexico
19 Aromashodu, Devin	WR	6-2	200	05/23/1984	4	Auburn
80 Bennett, Earl	WR	6-0	202	03/23/1987	3	Vanderbilt
85 Brock, Kevin	TE	6-5	255	04/09/1986	1	Rutgers
88 Clark, Desmond	TE	6-3	249	04/20/1977	12	Wake Forest
87 Davis, Kellen	TE	6-7	262	10/11/1985	3	Michigan State
81 Davis, Rashied	WR	5-9	187	07/24/1979	6	San Jose State
23 Hester, Devin	WR	5-11	189	11/04/1982	5	Miami (FL)
17 Iglesias, Juaquin	WR	6-0	204	08/22/1987	2	Oklahoma
13 Knox, Johnny	WR	6-0	180	11/03/1986	2	Abilene Christian
86 Manumaleuna, Brandon	TE	6-2	295	01/04/1980	10	Arizona
82 Olsen, Greg	TE	6-5	252	03/11/1985	4	Miami (FL)
11 Peterman, Eric	WR	6-1	200	11/18/1986	1	Northwestern
36 Williams, Eddie	TE	6-1	249	08/22/1987	1	Idaho

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
95 Adams, Anthony	DT	6-0	307	06/18/1980	8	Penn State
97 Anderson, Mark	DE	6-4	255	05/26/1983	5	Alabama
93 Gilbert, Jarron	DT	6-5	285	09/30/1986	2	San Jose State
91 Harris, Tommie	DT	6-3	295	04/29/1983	7	Oklahoma
94 Harrison, Marcus	DT	6-3	310	07/10/1984	3	Arkansas
71 Idonije, Israel	DT	6-6	297	11/17/1980	7	Manitoba
69 Melton, Henry	DE	6-3	265	10/11/1986	1	Texas
90 Peppers, Julius	DE	6-7	283	01/18/1980	9	North Carolina
75 Toeaina, Matt	DT	6-2	308	10/09/1982	3	Oregon

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
24 Afalava, Al	S	5-11	215	01/20/1987	2	Oregon State
35 Bowman, Zackary	CB	6-1	193	11/18/1984	3	Nebraska
36 Bullocks, Josh	S	6-1	207	02/28/1983	6	Nebraska
21 Graham, Corey	CB	6-0	195	07/25/1985	4	New Hampshire
46 Harris, Chris	S	6-0	207	08/06/1982	6	Nebraska
23 Jennings, Tim	CB	5-8	185	12/24/1983	5	Georgia
38 Manning, Danieal	S	5-11	201	08/09/1982	5	Abilene Christian
30 Moore, D.J.	CB	5-10	182	03/22/1987	2	Vanderbilt
20 Steltz, Craig	S	6-1	210	05/07/1986	3	LSU
33 Tillman, Charles	CB	6-1	196	02/23/1981	8	Louisiana-Lafayette
47 Turenne, Woodny	CB	6-1	182	01/25/1987	1	Louisville

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Briggs, Lance	LB	6-1	240	11/12/1980	8	Arizona
92 Hillenmeyer, Hunter	LB	6-4	238	10/28/1980	8	Vanderbilt
64 Malast, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	06/06/1986	1	Rutgers
53 Roach, Nick	LB	6-1	234	06/16/1985	4	Northwestern
58 Shaw, Tim	LB	6-1	236	03/27/1984	4	Penn State
59 Tinoisamoa, Pisa	LB	6-1	240	07/15/1981	8	Hawaii
54 Urlacher, Brian	LB	6-4	258	05/25/1978	11	New Mexico

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	185	12/30/1981	6	Penn State
4 Maynard, Brad	P	6-1	186	02/09/1974	14	Ball State
10 McGee, Richmond	P	6-4	203	04/25/1983	2	Texas

» LOVIE SMITH, *Head coach*

Mike Martz, offensive coordinator; **Rod Marinelli**, assistant head coach/defensive coordinator; **Dave Toub**, special teams coordinator; **Chris Tabor**, special teams assistant; **Mike Tice**, offensive line; **Tim Spencer**, running backs; **Mike DeBord**, tight ends; **Darryl Drake**, wide receivers; **Shane Day**, quarterbacks; **Jon Hoke**, secondary/corners; **Gill Byrd**, secondary/safties; **Bob Babich**, linebackers; **Eric Washington**, defensive line

Chris Harris in a trade with the Panthers, and he could play free safety if needed.

Cornerback Charles Tillman is rumored to be moving to free safety every offseason, but this would weaken Chicago's one dependable secondary spot in order to conduct an experiment at another. At right corner, Zackary Bowman got picked on repeatedly early last season, but did the picking himself later with five interceptions in the last nine games. **GRADE: D+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Special teams coordinator Dave Toub keeps churning out strong units to let the Bears stay in games regardless of Cutler's interceptions and a crumbling defense.

Hester will get more return opportunities this year, possibly on both kicks and punts. And with Knox and Manning also in the fold, there is no shortage of return men.

Kicker Robbie Gould shook off the only knock against him by connecting beyond 50 yards last season, while punter Brad Maynard enjoyed possibly his best all-around year. The coverage unit has also developed standouts such as Tim Shaw and Corey Graham. **GRADE: A+**

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Detroit's and San Francisco's quarterbacks averaged 20 touchdowns and 21 interceptions from 2006-08 with Mike Martz as offensive coordinator. Jay Cutler's yards and touchdowns could increase, but the interceptions probably won't decrease.

BUY
Johnny Knox
WR

SELL
Greg Olsen
TE

SLEEPER
Chester Taylor
RB

BOTTOM LINE

Desperate for a playoff season so Smith can maintain his job, the Bears have handed Cutler a crate of TNT in the form of Martz's high-risk, high-reward offense. The result will likely either be an explosive attack or the coaching regime going up in a giant fireball fueled by Cutler turnovers.

To cover some of the expected offensive mistakes, the hope is Peppers' acquisition will pull together a talented group of defenders that still lacks a free safety. It's going to have to be a defensive effort along the lines of the 2004-06 Bears, considering the nature of the new offensive scheme.

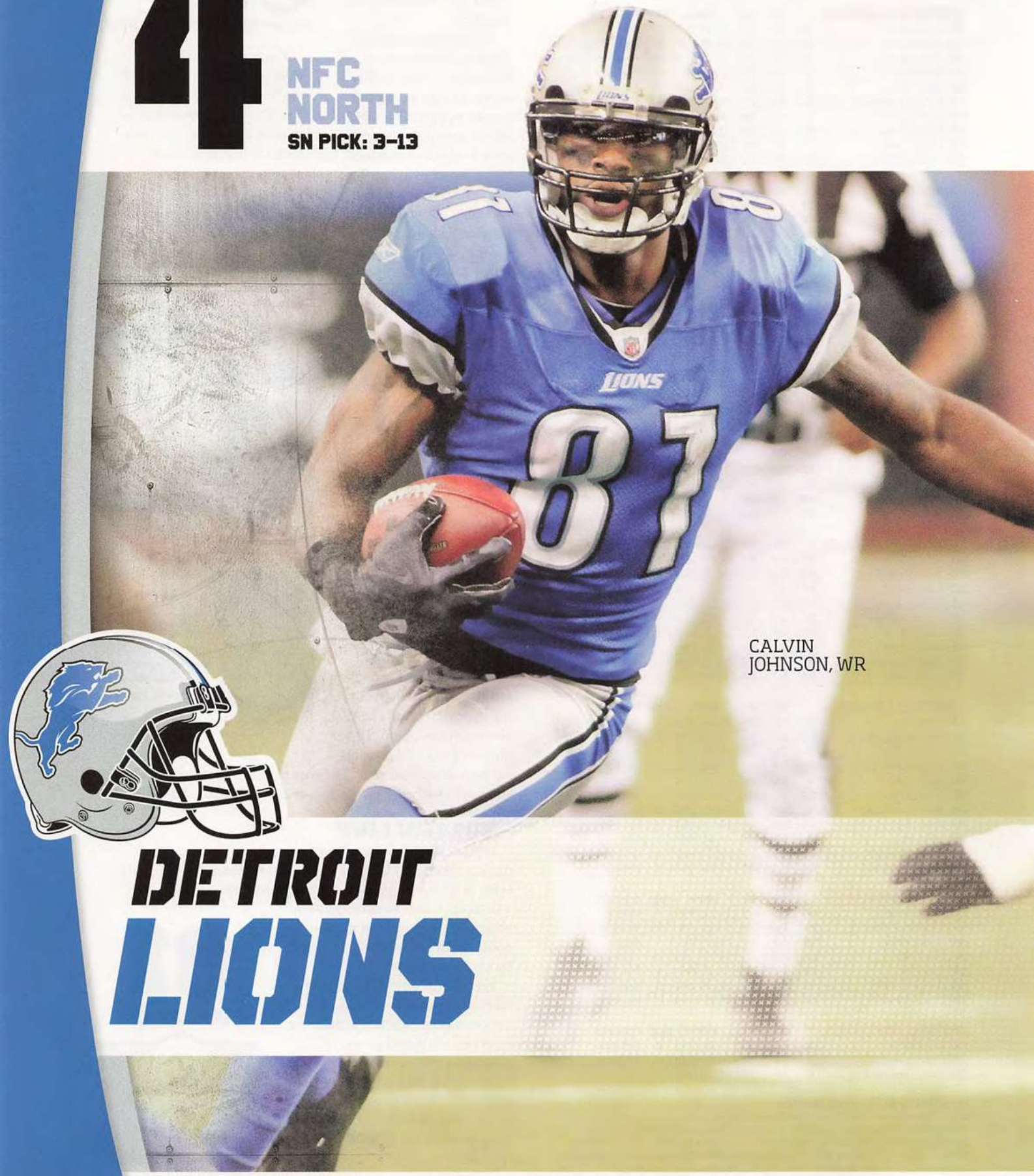
81
FINAL GRADE

STEADY
STOCK REPORT

4

NFC NORTH

SN PICK: 3-13



CALVIN JOHNSON, WR

DETROIT LIONS

Lions look to shed doormat tag and revive a missing roar

By Tom Kowalski, *Booth Newspapers*

In the 18 months since taking over arguably the worst team in NFL history, Detroit general manager Martin Mayhew and coach Jim Schwartz have won only half the battle. In terms of perception and reputation, the Lions are no longer the laughingstock of the league, as Mayhew has made several deft personnel moves and Schwartz did all he could with a roster in progress.

Now, though, the battles must be won on the field and the victories have to start stacking up. At this point, there's little to suggest there will be any great leaps or bounds this season. It took 10 years for the former regime to destroy the franchise, and it's going to take more than two seasons to resurrect it.

OFFENSE

The Lions have the best pure receiver in all of football, but they can't get him into the Pro Bowl because it's hard to get him the ball. With no other significant weapons, opponents often triple team wideout Calvin Johnson with a cornerback, safety and linebacker. The focus this season is to do everything possible to pull that coverage away from Johnson. It starts with an improved running game and ends with quarterback Matthew Stafford's ability to hit big plays to other receivers who are drawing single coverage.

Quarterbacks Stafford enters his second season with the promise of being the franchise quarterback the Lions haven't had in 50 years. Stafford has it all, from the physical abilities that feature a strong arm to the mental facilities of a sharp mind and the leadership qualities that have already won over the veterans. But Stafford has something else, too: bouts of inaccuracy, a penchant for believing too much in his wonderful arm and a worrisome history of injury. The 2009 No. 1 overall pick, who separated his left shoulder last year and had minor offseason knee surgery, is back at full health but needs to put the injury questions behind him.

Shaun Hill, who started 16 games over a three-year span with the 49ers, is the backup. He's a heady player with good accuracy who can step in if Stafford gets dinged up. **GRADE: B-**

Running backs Even before Kevin Smith went down with a serious knee injury in December, the Lions were already planning to upgrade this position and did so by drafting California's Jahvid Best in the first round. The Lions needed someone with great speed and home run ability to force opposing defenses to play honest against their passing attack. Detroit will wait until the end of camp to determine just how much the 200-pound Best will handle the ball each game, but remember that Schwartz worked with Chris Johnson in Tennessee and knows a player doesn't have to be big to handle the workload.

It's unlikely Smith will be anywhere near 100 percent at the start of the season. He's a tough runner, but lacks the outside speed or inside explosion to break big plays. Maurice Morris is the backup and while he showed some flash after taking over for Smith, he's more of a rotation player and can't be counted on to carry the load.

Aaron Brown, last year's sixth-round pick, was a pleasant surprise with his speed and playmaking ability, but also a liability because he couldn't remember the plays and too often ran off in the wrong direction.

Fullback Jerome Felton, one of the team's smartest players, is still making too many assignment errors on the field. He's got good all-around skills, though, and should be used more in short-yardage and goal-line situations as a runner. **GRADE: C**

Receivers One of the great crimes in the league is how one of the best all-around

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

COREY WILLIAMS — DT

Williams had strong back-to-back campaigns in Green Bay's 4-3 alignment, but was then sent to Cleveland, where he disappeared as a 3-4 end. Now that he's back in a 4-3 scheme, look for him to rebound with a big season.

MICHAEL SACKETT / US PRESSWIRE

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Matthew Stafford Shaun Hill
FB	Jerome Felton
RB	Jahvid Best Maurice Morris
LT	Jeff Backus Jason Fox
LG	Rob Sims Manny Ramirez
C	Dominic Raiola Dylan Gandy
RG	Stephen Peterman Daniel Loper
RT	Gosder Cherilus Jason Fox
TE	Tony Scheffler Brandon Pettigrew
WR	Calvin Johnson Derrick Williams
WR	Nate Burleson Bryant Johnson
	DEFENSE
LE	Jared DeVries Jason Hunter
DT	Corey Williams Landon Cohen
DT	Ndamukong Suh Sammie Hill
RE	Kyle Vanden Bosch Cliff Avril
SLB	Julian Peterson Zack Follett
MLB	DeAndre Levy Jordon Dizon
WLB	Zack Follett Jordon Dizon
LCB	Chris Houston Jonathan Wade
SS	Ko Simpson Daniel Bullocks
FS	Louis Delmas Kalvin Pearson
RCB	Amari Spievey Eric King
	SPECIALISTS
K	Jason Hanson
P	Nick Harris
KR	Aaron Brown
PR	Nate Burleson
LS	Don Muhlbach

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 2-14 HOME: 2-6

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/lions
www.detroitlions.com

STADIUM
Ford Field
Capacity: 65,000 **Turf:** Artificial
Tickets: 313-262-2006
Training Camp: Detroit Lions Headquarters and Training Facility, Allen Park, Mich.; 313-216-4600

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Lions)

"The problem with Detroit is the same problem they've had for years. They keep changing everything every year or two. Look at the roster. They've still got guys from three schemes ago. They draft players for one specific philosophy, like big linemen for power running, and then shift to a complete zone-blocking system the next year. Now it's back to power football and they just spin their wheels. They've dumped guys they should've kept and the guys they kept haven't been playing the system. You see it at all the positions. ...

"Continuity has to be maintained and even if it's not the same coach, it has to be the same scheme. They're going to be better because their talent is improving, but they've really got a long way to go. It's amazing how far behind they are, compared to the good teams. You can't make up that kind of ground in a year or two. At least they seem to be headed in the right direction. You couldn't say that two years ago.

receivers can't get a sniff for the Pro Bowl. In three years, Johnson has put up decent numbers, but the one he can't get away from—figuratively and literally—is "three." That's the number of defenders who are usually shadowing him during a play. Because of his 6-5, 235-pound frame—and 4.3 speed—a cornerback can't handle him one-on-one. As a result, a safety is almost always drifting over to cover the top while a linebacker—at the snap of the ball (and sometimes before)—bolts in the direction of Johnson.

The Lions signed veteran Nate Burleson to fill the same role he played years ago in Minnesota opposite Randy Moss (when Lions offensive coordinator Scott Linehan was also with the Vikings). It's the role in which Bryant Johnson failed to deliver last season. The Lions need to establish Burleson as a long-ball threat, because that's the only thing that will force opponents to play it straight.

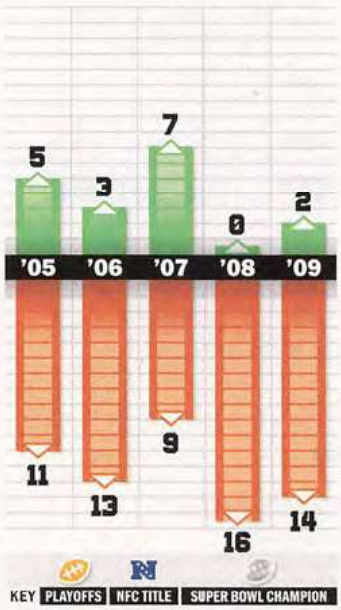
There will be several options in terms of how Detroit's wideouts line up, because both Burleson and Calvin Johnson can fill the slot with Bryant Johnson outside. Veteran Dennis Northcutt and second-year player Derrick Williams will compete for backup positions, with special teams contributions likely determining their role.

GRADE: B+

Offensive line ▸▸ Left tackle Jeff Backus is going into his 10th year with the Lions, and in 2010 he'll be lining up next to the team's 15th different left guard during that time. The Lions traded for veteran Rob Sims in hopes of finally stopping the revolving door at the guard spot. Detroit likes to run a lot of isolation plays (in addition to zone), so that fits Sims' physical brand of ball. Backus is a decent pass protector and strong run blocker who's coming off his best season in years.

Center Dominic Raiola is solid in the middle because of his intelligence, defensive-recognition skills and high motor. Right guard Stephen Peterman is another player who is better in downhill blocking but can also move in space when needed. There could be a problem looming at right tackle, where third-year player Gosder Cherilus is still struggling to find some consistency. Cherilus has the physical skills and mean streak to be effective

5-YEAR RECORD: 17-63



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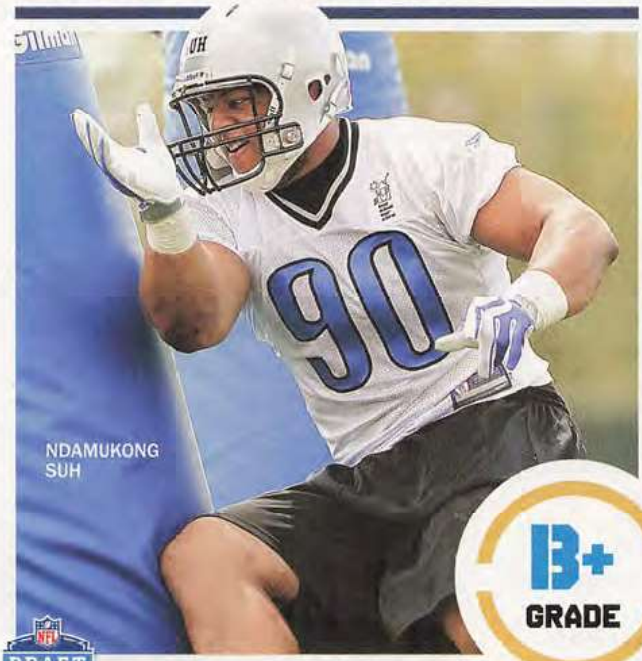


B+ GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	2	Ndamukong Suh	DT	6-4	307	Nebraska
1	30	Jahvid Best	RB	5-10	200	California
3	2	Amari Spievey	CB	5-11	195	Iowa
4	30	Jason Fox	OT	6-7	305	Miami (Fla.)
7	6	Willie Young	DE	6-5	251	N.C. State
7	48	Tim Toone	WR	5-10	185	Weber State

While debate regarding the top defensive tackle in the draft surrounded **Ndamukong Suh** and Gerald McCoy, Suh was the safest pick due to his consistency. He has all the tools to be an interior force against the run and will upgrade the entire defensive line when he arrives in Detroit. While less debate took place over running back **Jahvid Best**, he should contribute in a variety of alignments and make big plays with the help of quarterback Matthew Stafford. **Amari Spievey** is a cornerback teams like because he has the speed to cover NFL receivers.

In the final four rounds, the Lions gambled on offensive tackle **Jason Fox** and defensive end **Willie Young**. Both have flashed NFL talent but need to improve their technique, and Young must bulk up.

LEON HALIP / US PRESSWIRE

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	27-45	at New Orleans Saints
09/20	L	13-27	Minnesota Vikings
09/27	W	19-14	Washington Redskins
10/04	L	24-48	at Chicago Bears
10/11	L	20-28	Pittsburgh Steelers
10/18	L	0-26	at Green Bay Packers
11/01	L	10-17	St. Louis Rams
11/08	L	20-32	at Seattle Seahawks
11/15	L	10-27	at Minnesota Vikings
11/22	W	38-37	Cleveland Browns
11/26	L	12-34	Green Bay Packers
12/06	L	13-23	at Cincinnati Bengals
12/13	L	3-48	at Baltimore Ravens
12/20	L	24-31	Arizona Cardinals
12/27	L	6-20	at San Francisco 49ers
01/03	L	23-37	Chicago Bears

WON 2, LOST 14

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
K. Smith	217	747	3.4	31	4
Morris	93	384	4.1	64	2
Brown	27	131	4.9	19	0
Stafford	20	108	5.4	21	2
Culpepper	18	91	5.1	32	0
C. Johnson	7	73	10.4	19	0
Felton	15	46	3.1	10	0
Stanton	9	33	3.7	11	1
Williams	1	4	4.0	4	0
Pearson	1	1	1.0	1	0
LIONS	409	1616	4.0	64	9
OPPONENTS	458	2025	4.4	61	18

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
C. Johnson	67	984	14.7	75	5
K. Smith	41	415	10.1	63	1
B. Johnson	35	417	11.9	36	3
Northcutt	35	357	10.2	47	1
Pettigrew	30	346	11.5	30	2
Heller	29	296	10.2	24	3
Morris	26	210	8.1	19	0
Fitzsimmons	18	128	7.1	12	0
Felton	13	133	10.2	27	0
Brown	9	84	9.3	26	1
Williams	6	52	8.7	19	0
Nordin	2	26	13.0	14	0
Smith	2	7	3.5	4	0
Standeford	1	5	5.0	5	0
Gronkowski	1	4	4.0	4	0
LIONS	316	3471	11.0	75	16
OPPONENTS	371	4249	11.5	68	35

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Stafford	377	201	2267	13	20
Culpepper	157	89	945	3	6
Stanton	51	26	259	0	6
LIONS	585	316	3471	16	32
OPPONENTS	545	371	4399	35	9

SACKS — LIONS 26, OPPONENTS 43

Avril 5.5, Hunter 5, Peterson 4.5, Foote 2, Fluellen 1.5, McBride 1.5, Buchanon 1, Cohen 1, Delmas 1, Dizon 1

and often shows it—but not often enough. **GRADE: C-**

DEFENSE

The worst-ranked defense in the league for three straight years continues to undergo a scheme overhaul. In the running game, the design is to funnel everything back to the middle where the size of the defenders can stuff the play. Against the pass, the Lions want to reduce their blitzing as much as possible and rely on the front four, who are trained to play the run on the way to the quarterback.

Defensive line ▸▸ This unit will have a different look from last season, as free agent Kyle Vanden Bosch will line up at right end. At left end, Jared DeVries returns after missing the entire 2009 season with a torn Achilles tendon. Tackle Corey Williams arrives from a trade with Cleveland and will team with Ndamukong Suh, the second overall pick in the draft.

Suh, who is good against the run and pass, is going to draw a lot of attention and will give opportunities to other players. He might need some time to adjust to the pro game, but should be a force soon.

The interesting thing about Vanden Bosch and Williams is that they've both proven to be effective players, but neither has played at that level for the last two years. Williams was franchised by the Packers after back-to-back seven-sack seasons. but then traded to the Browns, who made him an end in a 3-4 scheme, causing his production to plummet. Williams says the drop-off was a result of the scheme, not his ability. For Vanden Bosch, an injury limited him in 2008 and then defensive changes (including the loss of Albert Haynesworth) contributed to some issues last year with Tennessee.

While DeVries is likely to start on the left side, he'll be pushed by Cliff Avril and Jason Hunter, who showed some flair as a pass rusher last season in his nine starts. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸▸ This is a position that's in the middle of a transition period. Ernie Sims was traded to the Eagles and Larry Foote wasn't re-signed and went to Pittsburgh as a free agent. Also, Julian Peterson has a huge contract, so there's no telling how long he'll remain in Detroit.

On the strong side, Peterson is good against the run, in coverage and on the blitz. DeAndre Levy is going into his second season and replaces Foote in the middle. Levy came on quickly as a rookie and showed he had the speed for the pass-coverage game and the toughness to handle the run.

Zack Follett, a 2009 seventh-rounder who played little last season, is the replacement for Sims. Follett has a lot of energy, but is too inconsistent to be a full-time player. Detroit would like to find someone to challenge him before the season starts. Since the Lions lack depth at linebacker, they could be in trouble if they lose a starter for a lengthy period. **GRADE: D+**

Secondary ▸▸ This position remains unsettled because there are only two legitimate starters in cornerback

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JIM SCHWARTZ

It's widely known that Schwartz, a Georgetown graduate in economics, is a numbers and stats guy. But that doesn't mean Schwartz strictly follows the percentages; he just wants to know the odds he's bucking when he decides to gamble.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	299.0	26
RUSHING	101.0	24
PASSING	198.0	21
SCORING	262	27
PUNT RETURNS	8.3	16
KICK RETURNS	21.4	26
RED ZONE TD %	47.2	26
TOTAL DEFENSE	392.1	32
AGAINST RUSH	126.6	25
AGAINST PASS	265.6	32
POINTS ALLOWED	494	32
INTERCEPTIONS	9	30
SACKS	26	29
TURNOVER DIFF.	-18	32

LIONS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Robert Porcher** *(1992-2003)* — 95.5
2. **Mike L. Cofer** *(1983-92)* — 62.5
3. **Tracy Scroggins** *(1992-2001)* — 60.5

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ Chicago	SEPT. 12 1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	Philadelphia	SEPT. 19 1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	@ Minnesota	SEPT. 26 1:00	W / L
WEEK 4	@ Green Bay	OCT. 3 1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	St. Louis	OCT. 10 1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	@ N.Y. Giants	OCT. 17 1:00	W / L
>> WEEK 7	OPEN DATE		
WEEK 8	Washington	OCT. 31 1:00	W / L
WEEK 9	N.Y. Jets	NOV. 7 1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	@ Buffalo	NOV. 14 1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ Dallas	NOV. 21 1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	New England	NOV. 25 12:30	W / L
WEEK 13	Chicago	DEC. 5 1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	Green Bay	DEC. 12 1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	@ Tampa Bay	DEC. 19 1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	@ Miami	DEC. 26 1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	Minnesota	JAN. 2 1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Chris Houston, who was acquired in a trade with Atlanta, and safety Louis Delmas. While the Lions hope rookie third-round pick Amari Spievey can win a job in camp, it could be a bit of a stretch. At the other safety spot, the Lions will rely on a safety-by-committee situation with Ko Simpson (returning from a knee injury), Marquand Manuel and Marvin White.

Houston was a high second-round pick in 2007 but hasn't lived up to expectations, as he has just three interceptions in his 37 regular-season starts.

The Lions have decent depth with Eric King, Dante Wesley and Jonathan Wade but none of those players has been a starter, and they're not expected to fill that role. That's why Spievey, a physical corner with good ball skills and production, will get an opportunity in camp to win the starting job.

At safety, Delmas is one of the up-and-comers in the league and, on a better team, would have gotten more notice for NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year. Not only is he a big-time hitter, but Delmas also has a nose for the football and overall skills that will only improve as he gets more acclimated to the

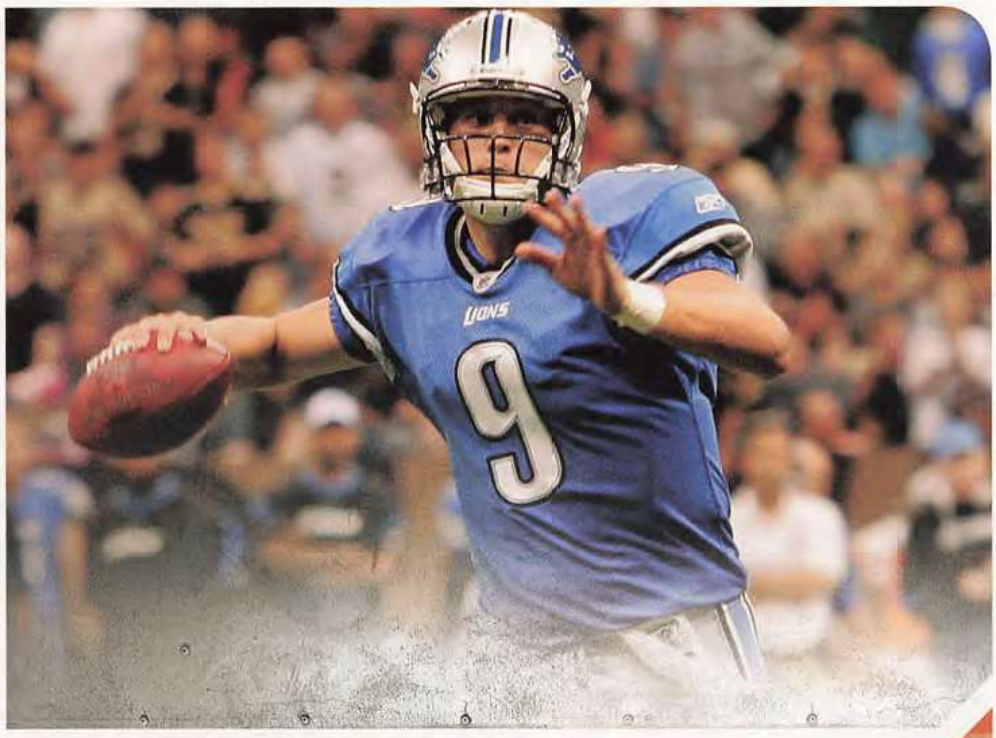
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

DE Kyle Vanden Bosch *(FA/Titans)*, **WR Nate Burleson** *(FA/Seahawks)*, **TE Tony Scheffler** *(trade/Broncos)*, **CB Dante Wesley** *(FA/Panthers)*, **LB Landon Johnson** *(FA/Panthers)*, **DT Corey Williams** *(trade/Browns)*, **CB Jonathan Wade** *(FA/Rams)*, **CB Chris Houston** *(trade/Falcons)*, **QB Shaun Hill** *(trade/49ers)*, **G Rob Sims** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **WR Marko Mitchell** *(FA/Redskins)*

SUBTRACTIONS

LB Ernie Sims *(trade/Eagles)*, **CB Phillip Buchanon** *(FA/Redskins)*, **QB Daunte Culpepper** *(FA)*, **LB Larry Foote** *(FA/Steelers)*, **CB Anthony Henry** *(FA)*, **QB Patrick Ramsey** *(FA)*, **DT Grady Jackson** *(FA)*, **DE Dewayne White** *(FA)*, **DE Robert Henderson** *(trade/Seahawks)*, **TE Casey FitzSimmons** *(retired)*, **RB Cedric Peerman** *(FA/Bengals)*, **TE Michael Matthews** *(FA/Bills)*



ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... MATTHEW STAFFORD

(how a rival sizes him up)

"He's a tough kid—everybody saw the Cleveland game—but he got beat up all year and kept getting up. We studied him a lot coming out of college and he has all the intangibles you're looking for: the confidence, intelligence, leadership and huddle presence. ...

"He makes you cover the entire field because there's not a throw he can't make, even when he leaves the pocket. He's got a huge arm and he knows it. He can be very streaky with his consistency and it'll be interesting to see if that changes as he gets more comfortable or if it's something that dogs him for his career. ...

Overall, he's a very impressive kid. If they can keep him healthy and give him some more help, there's no telling what he might do. Right now, he takes way too many big hits and, if that continues, that's going to affect him."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Hill, Shaun	QB	6-3	220	01/09/1980	9	Maryland
9 Stafford, Matthew	QB	6-2	225	02/07/1988	2	Georgia
5 Stanton, Drew	QB	6-3	230	05/07/1984	4	Michigan State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
76 Backus, Jeff	T	6-5	305	09/21/1977	10	Michigan
71 Barton, Kirk	T	6-4	305	11/04/1984	2	Ohio State
72 Canfield, Trevor	G	6-5	307	01/10/1986	1	Cincinnati
77 Cherilus, Gosder	T	6-7	318	06/28/1984	3	Boston College
65 Gandy, Dylan	C	6-3	290	03/08/1982	6	Texas Tech
64 Gerberry, Dan	C	6-3	292	11/10/1985	1	Ball State
78 Hilliard, Corey	T	6-6	300	04/26/1985	4	Oklahoma State
68 Jansen, Jon	T	6-6	297	01/28/1976	12	Michigan
70 Loper, Daniel	T	6-6	320	01/15/1982	6	Texas Tech
48 Muhlbach, Don	C	6-4	265	08/17/1981	7	Texas A&M
66 Peterman, Stephen	G	6-4	323	01/11/1982	6	LSU
73 Quarterman, Kurt	G	6-5	325	10/05/1983	1	Louisville
51 Raiola, Dominic	C	6-1	295	12/30/1978	10	Nebraska
63 Ramirez, Manny	G	6-3	335	02/13/1983	4	Texas Tech
74 Schuening, Roy	G	6-3	315	04/08/1984	3	Oregon State
67 Sims, Rob	G	6-3	312	12/06/1983	5	Ohio State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Brown, Aaron	RB	6-1	196	10/10/1985	2	TCU
38 Dorsey, DeDe	RB	5-11	203	08/01/1984	5	Lindenwood
45 Felton, Jerome	RB	6-0	247	07/03/1986	3	Furman
28 Morris, Maurice	RB	5-11	216	12/01/1979	9	Oregon
34 Smith, Kevin	RB	6-1	211	12/17/1986	3	UCF

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Burleson, Nate	WR	6-0	198	08/19/1981	8	Nevada
87 Clark, Brian	WR	6-2	204	12/26/1983	4	N.C. State
18 Fowler, Eric	WR	6-3	198	10/17/1984	2	Grand Valley State
16 Garvin, Michael Ray	WR	5-8	182	09/29/1986	1	Florida State
47 Gronkowski, Dan	TE	6-6	255	01/21/1985	1	Maryland
19 Heckendorf, Kole	WR	6-2	191	11/20/1985	1	North Dakota State
89 Heller, Will	TE	6-6	270	02/28/1981	8	Georgia Tech
80 Johnson, Bryant	WR	6-3	211	03/07/1981	8	Penn State
81 Johnson, Calvin	WR	6-5	235	09/25/1985	4	Georgia Tech
11 Mitchell, Marko	WR	6-4	218	03/11/1985	1	Nevada
85 Nordin, Jake	TE	6-3	255	07/08/1984	2	Northern Illinois
86 Northcutt, Dennis	WR	5-11	172	12/22/1977	11	Arizona
84 Pettigrew, Brandon	TE	6-5	263	02/23/1985	2	Oklahoma State
88 Scheffler, Tony	TE	6-5	250	02/15/1983	5	Western Michigan
12 Williams, Derrick	WR	6-0	194	07/06/1986	2	Penn State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
92 Avril, Cliff	DE	6-3	251	04/08/1986	3	Purdue
94 Bryan, Copeland	DE	6-4	253	07/14/1983	3	Arizona
60 Cohen, Joe	DT	6-2	310	06/06/1984	3	Florida
98 Cohen, Landon	DT	6-3	272	08/03/1986	3	Ohio
95 DeVries, Jared	DE	6-4	275	06/11/1976	11	Iowa
96 Fluellen, Andre	DT	6-2	296	03/07/1985	3	Florida State
79 Hill, Sammie	DT	6-4	270	11/08/1986	2	Stillman
97 Hunter, Jason	DE	6-4	271	08/28/1983	5	Appalachian State
75 McBride, Turk	DE	6-2	278	05/30/1985	4	Tennessee
62 Taylor, Terrance	DT	6-0	319	05/14/1986	1	Michigan
93 Vanden Bosch, Kyle	DE	6-4	278	11/17/1978	10	Nebraska
99 Williams, Corey	DT	6-4	320	08/17/1980	7	Arkansas State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
27 Bullocks, Daniel	S	6-0	213	02/28/1983	4	Nebraska
26 Delmas, Louis	S	6-0	202	04/12/1987	2	Western Michigan
44 Hefney, Jonathan	CB	5-9	185	02/27/1985	1	Tennessee
23 Houston, Chris	CB	5-11	175	10/18/1984	4	Arkansas
29 King, Eric	CB	5-10	185	05/10/1982	6	Wake Forest
40 Manuel, Marquand	S	6-0	213	07/11/1979	9	Florida
43 Pratt, Paul	CB	5-10	185	05/01/1985	1	Nevada
30 Simpson, Ko	S	6-1	202	11/09/1983	4	South Carolina
39 Smith, DeAngelo	CB	5-11	198	07/17/1986	2	Cincinnati
20 Wade, Jonathan	CB	5-10	195	03/27/1984	4	Tennessee
21 Wesley, Dante	CB	6-1	210	04/05/1979	9	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
25 White, Marvin	S	6-1	199	12/05/1983	4	TCU
42 Williams, Jack	CB	5-9	186	03/27/1985	3	Kent State
33 Word-Daniels, Jahi	CB	6-0	194	11/19/1986	1	Georgia Tech

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
53 Campbell, Caleb	LB	6-2	237	06/19/1986	1	Army
46 Ciurciu, Vinny	LB	6-0	240	05/02/1980	8	Boston College
57 Dizon, Jordon	LB	6-0	225	01/16/1986	3	Colorado
49 Follett, Zack	LB	6-0	236	07/03/1987	2	California
55 Johnson, Landon	LB	6-2	232	03/13/1981	7	Purdue
54 Levy, DeAndre	LB	6-3	228	03/26/1987	2	Wisconsin
56 Palmer, Ashlee	LB	6-1	236	04/07/1986	2	Ole Miss
59 Peterson, Julian	LB	6-3	240	07/28/1978	11	Michigan State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Hanson, Jason	K	6-0	190	06/17/1970	19	Washington State
2 Harris, Nick	P	6-2	218	07/23/1978	10	California

JIM SCHWARTZ, *Head coach*
Scott Linehan, offensive coordinator; **Gunther Cunningham,** defensive coordinator; **Danny Crossman,** special teams coordinator; **Bradford Banta,** special teams assistant; **George Yarno,** offensive line; **Jeremiah Washburn,** offensive line assistant; **Sam Gash,** running backs; **Tim Lappano,** tight ends; **Shawn Jefferson,** wide receivers; **Todd Downing,** assistant coach/quarterbacks; **Tim Walton,** secondary/corners; **Don Clemons,** defensive assistant; **Matt Burke,** linebackers; **Kris Kocurek,** defensive line

JAY DROWNS / SN

speed of the game.

The Lions will be in decent shape if Simpson can return healthy, but that's a big "if" at this point. White makes too many assignment errors to be trustworthy in the last line of defense, and Manuel is crafty but doesn't have the speed anymore. The Lions hope Daniel Bullocks can return from a serious knee injury but, at this point, he can't be counted on. **GRADE: D-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Jason Hanson, going into his 19th NFL season, is coming off his worst year in a long time and there are whispers that the end is near. But the whispers aren't too loud because in 2008, Hanson became the only kicker in NFL history to nail all eight of his field goal attempts of 50 yards or longer. Hanson had minor knee surgery in training camp last year and that, more than anything, caused his decrease in productivity.

Punter Nick Harris is steady and good at pooch punts, while long snapper Don Muhlbach is reliable. Even though Detroit's coverage units are in need of an upgrade, the real issue is in the return game. The Lions aren't getting any bang for their buck in that area and both return jobs are wide open. **GRADE: C-**

BOTTOM LINE

In a division full of strong-armed quarterbacks, the Lions' weak defensive unit is going to struggle. They'll be improved from last year and their offense will give them a puncher's chance in some high-scoring shootouts, but the fourth quarter is going to reveal their weaknesses.

Opponents are clever at finding mismatches and exploiting them and Detroit has many. It's too soon for a playoff run to be the barometer of this team's success.

The Lions need to strive toward .500 and be a threat to be in every game. From where Detroit was two years ago, it's a worthy and lofty goal.

65
FINAL GRADE

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Calvin Johnson needs Matthew Stafford to stay healthy. Johnson caught four of his five touchdowns in 2009 from Stafford, including two scores of 50 yards or more.

BUY
Jahvid Best
RB

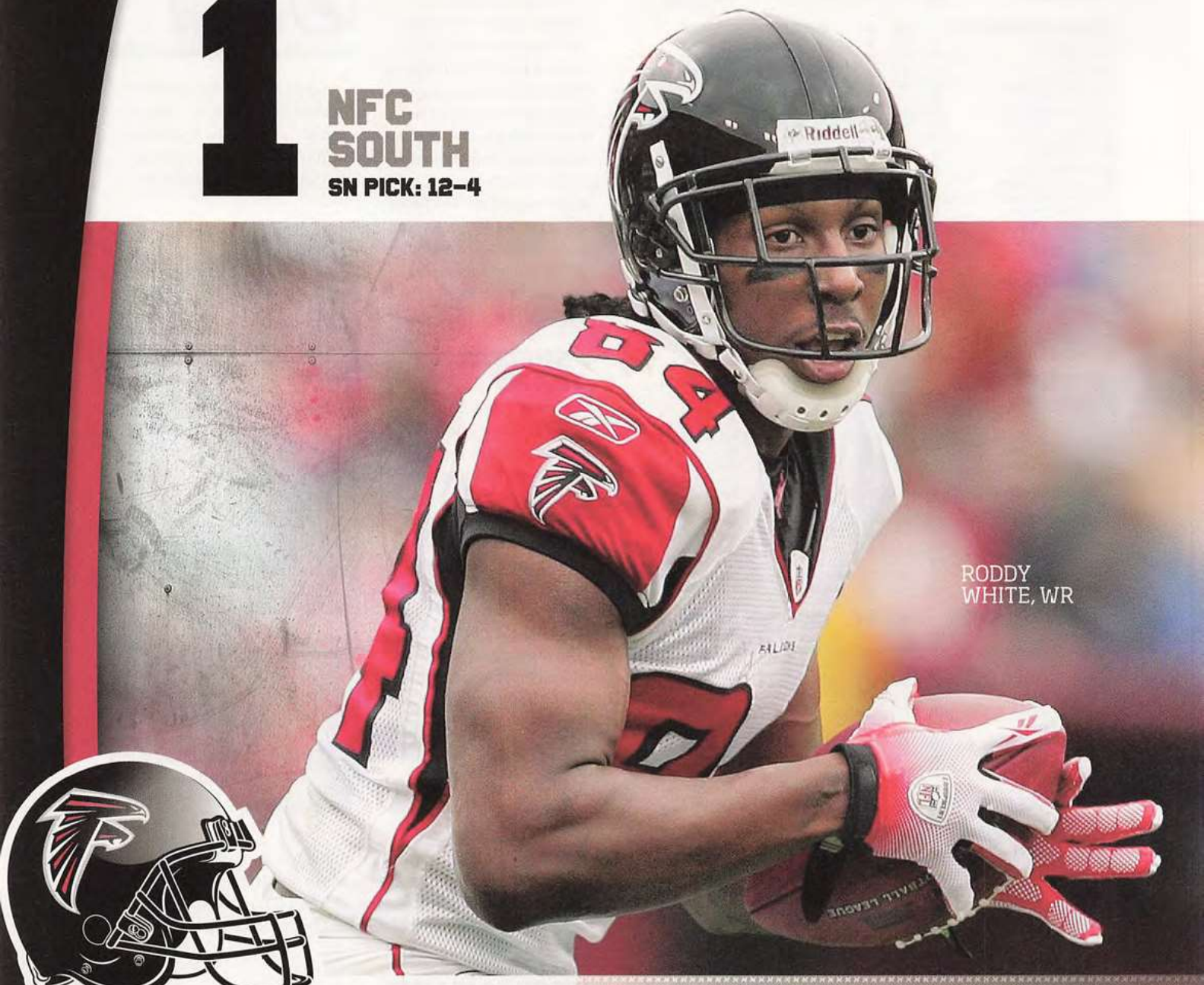
SELL
Brandon Pettigrew
TE

SLEEPER
Matthew Stafford
QB

1

NFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 12-4



RODDY WHITE, WR

ATLANTA FALCONS

Falcons' postseason hopes take flight behind Ryan and Turner

By D. Orlando Ledbetter, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Falcons owner Arthur Blank didn't help to build the Home Depot empire and create billions in wealth by shying away from challenges.

If he has it his way, neither will the football team he owns.

"I'm no longer about back-to-back winning seasons," Blank says. "I'm about winning rings now."

The Falcons shook that four-decade-old albatross from around their necks in 2009 when they finished 9-7 and, for the first time in franchise history, will enter a season with two consecutive winning campaigns.

While the team may still be too young to be considered a bona fide Super Bowl contender, the foundation for a bright future is in place on both sides of the ball.

Long-suffering Falcons fans are likely thinking, "If the Saints can win a Super Bowl, why not us?"

OFFENSE

In Mike Mularkey's offense, things start with a power running attack that third-year quarterback Matt Ryan will then build around. The return to full health of running back Michael Turner and continued growth of Ryan will be keys to the Falcons' rushing success, while wide receiver Roddy White and tight end Tony Gonzalez are the main threats when Atlanta takes to the air.

Quarterbacks Any success the Falcons have this season will be tied to the continued development of Ryan, who's entering his third year in the league. He turned in a solid second season, though he battled through some rough spots and a nasty turf-toe injury before finishing strong. In 14 games, he completed 263 passes for 2,916 yards, 22 touchdowns and 14 interceptions.

The Falcons had to ask more of Ryan's arm last season when opponents focused on stopping their rushing attack. And he shined in a passing game that included newcomer Tony Gonzalez, who was a nice target after slot receiver Harry Douglas missed the season with a knee injury.

The Falcons re-signed backup Chris Redman, who played well in three games while Ryan was out. They plan to continue the development of John Parker Wilson, the No. 3 quarterback last season. **GRADE: B-**

Running backs When healthy, Turner, Jerious Norwood and Jason Snelling provide the Falcons with a deep stable of running backs.

Fullback Ovie Mughelli is also a top-flight lead blocker who could improve as a short-yardage running option.

Turner was not able to follow up his Pro Bowl season after suffering a right-ankle sprain and then trying to come back too early from the injury. One of the more diligent workers in the weight room this offseason, Turner appears determined to prove his 1,699-yard season in 2008 was not a fluke.

Norwood has battled injuries throughout his career, but his rare top-end speed makes him a threat that must be respected every time he touches the ball. Norwood hopes to continue to develop in the passing game and be more of a factor on third downs. Staying away from injury would help him immensely.

Snelling had to pick up the slack at fullback and running back last season. He filled in early for Mughelli at fullback and took over for Turner and Norwood down the stretch. He's a hard-charging runner who does not shy away from contact. **GRADE: B**

Receivers Roddy White turned in another spectacular season, earning a Pro Bowl berth after catching 85 passes for

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

KROY BIERMANN — **DE**

Biermann has improved steadily over his first two seasons and might be ready to explode onto the scene in Year 3. The plan to fortify the middle of the defense will allow Biermann to utilize his speed and pass-rushing skills.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Matt Ryan Chris Redman
FB	Ovie Mughelli Jason Snelling
RB	Michael Turner Jerious Norwood
LT	Sam Baker Will Svitek
LG	Justin Blalock Garrett Reynolds
C	Todd McClure Brett Romberg
RG	Harvey Dahl Quinn Ojinnaka
RT	Tyson Clabo Garrett Reynolds
TE	Tony Gonzalez Justin Peelle
WR	Roddy White Brian Finneran
WR	Michael Jenkins Harry Douglas
	DEFENSE
LE	Kroy Biermann Jamaal Anderson
DT	Jonathan Babineaux Thomas Johnson
DT	Peria Jerry Vance Walker
RE	John Abraham Lawrence Sidbury
SLB	Stephen Nicholas Robert James
MLB	Curtis Lofton Coy Wire
WLB	Mike Peterson Sean Weatherspoon
LCB	Dunta Robinson Christopher Owens
SS	Thomas DeCoud Matt Giordano
FS	Erik Coleman William Moore
RCB	Brian Williams Brent Grimes
	SPECIALISTS
K	Matt Bryant
P	Michael Koenen
KR	Dominique Franks
PR	Dominique Franks
LS	Joe Zelenka

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 9-7 **HOME: 6-2**

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/falcons
www.atlantafalcons.com

STADIUM
Georgia Dome
Capacity: 71,228 **Turf:** Artificial
Tickets: 404-223-8444
Training Camp: The Branch, Flowery Branch, Ga.; 770-965-3115

OPPOSITE: EZRA SHAW / GETTY IMAGES

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

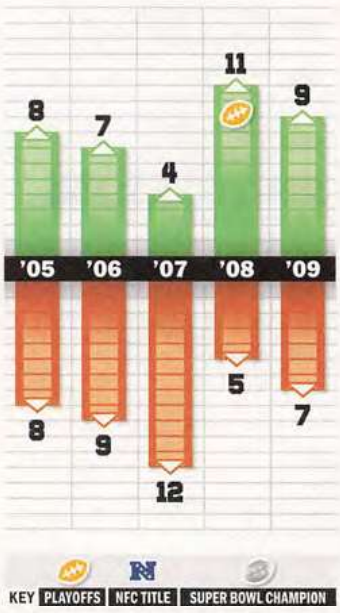
(an opponent breaks down the Falcons)

"The lasting impression that you come away from playing the Falcons is how hard they play. They don't have a bunch of Pro Bowlers on the field, but (they) are very strategic and organized in how they approach things. ...

"The quarterback (Matt Ryan) is going to be one of the great ones in the league if he keeps improving. He doesn't have the strongest arm in the league, but he's accurate and knows where to deliver the ball. They have done a good job of surrounding him with weapons in Michael Turner, Roddy White and Tony Gonzalez and fortifying that offensive line. What that line lacks in athletic ability, they make up for it with sheer nastiness. ...

"On defense, they had to do something with that secondary. They were weak at the corners and their outside linebackers struggle in coverage. So, in the passing game, there was usually somebody open. It was just a matter of getting the time to find the open receivers. The addition of (cornerback) Dunta Robinson is going to help that defense immensely."

5-YEAR RECORD: 39–41



1,153 yards and 11 touchdowns. He posted those numbers while being the primary outside target of most defenses.

White was helped by the addition of Gonzalez, who was able to get open at all levels and continued to run well after the catch. Gonzalez seemed rejuvenated by the trade from Kansas City and was spectacular in 2009, especially in the red zone either as a target or decoy.

Michael Jenkins had a solid 50-catch season, but did not make teams pay for leaving him in single coverage. The team is hopeful about the return of Douglas from knee surgery. He showed a great deal of promise playing in the slot as a rookie and had an excellent offseason before going down early in training camp last year.

Brian Finneran and Eric Weems, who replaced Douglas last season, will have to beat back training camp challengers to retain their roster spots.

Finneran is still a valuable special teams player and can get open on third downs.

GRADE: B

Offensive line ▸▸ Atlanta's line paved the way for the offense to average 340.4 yards per game last season, and center Todd McClure will again anchor the unit. He will enter the season having started a team-record 128 consecutive games. His nickname, "Mud Duck," belies his tenacity and speaks to his ability to wallow around in the trenches and get the job done.

The guard spots figure to be manned again by Justin Blalock and Harvey Dahl, who is battling back from a nasty high-ankle sprain.

Dahl and right tackle Tyson Clabo, who is working on his own consecutive-game streak (53), make up a lethal duo on the right side. Left tackle Sam Baker continued to make strides in his second season

DRAFT REPORT

B
GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	19	Sean Weatherspoon	LB	6-1	239	Missouri
3	19	Corey Peters	DT	6-3	300	Kentucky
3	34	Mike Johnson	G	6-5	312	Alabama
4	19	Joe Hawley	C	6-3	297	UNLV
5	4	Dominique Franks	CB	5-11	194	Oklahoma
5	34	Kerry Meier	WR	6-2	224	Kansas
6	2	Shann Schillinger	S	6-0	202	Montana

The Falcons wanted an upgrade at linebacker and **Sean Weatherspoon** will provide that. He is a competitive defender with the speed and athleticism to cover tight ends and chase down plays in pursuit. However, to reach his potential, he'll need to make more impact plays than he did at Missouri.

In the third round, the Falcons added two players who were under the radar in the SEC. Defensive tackle **Corey Peters** is quick off the ball and disruptive between the offensive tackles, while guard **Mike Johnson** makes up for his lack of athleticism and size with aggressiveness. **Joe Hawley** is an athletic offensive lineman who could be a solid starter if he bulks up and improves his strength.

The Falcons found value in Round 5 with **Dominique Franks** and **Kerry Meier** and sixth-rounder **Shann Schillinger**. All will be special teams contributors immediately and potential starters down the road.

DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	19-7	Miami Dolphins
09/20	W	28-20	Carolina Panthers
09/27	L	10-26	at New England Patriots
10/11	W	45-10	at San Francisco 49ers
10/18	W	21-14	Chicago Bears
10/25	L	21-37	at Dallas Cowboys
11/02	L	27-35	at New Orleans Saints
11/08	W	31-17	Washington Redskins
11/15	L	19-28	at Carolina Panthers
11/22	L	31-34	at New York Giants
11/29	W	20-17	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
12/06	L	7-34	Philadelphia Eagles
12/13	L	23-26	New Orleans Saints
12/20	W	10-7	at New York Jets
12/27	W	31-3	Buffalo Bills
01/03	W	20-10	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers

WON 9, LOST 7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Turner	178	871	4.9	58	10
Snelling	142	613	4.3	31	4
Norwood	76	252	3.3	21	0
Weems	8	53	6.6	31	0
Ryan	30	49	1.6	7	1
Stecker	5	15	3.0	6	0
Mughelli	4	10	2.5	4	0
Booker	1	7	7.0	7	0
Redman	6	4	0.7	5	0
White	1	2	2.0	2	0
FALCONS	**451**	**1876**	**4.2**	**58**	**15**
OPPONENTS	433	1711	4.0	45	10

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
White	85	1153	13.6	90	11
Gonzalez	83	867	10.4	27	6
Jenkins	50	635	12.7	50	1
Snelling	30	259	8.6	38	1
Norwood	19	186	9.8	38	1
Booker	16	181	11.3	27	1
Peelle	12	115	9.6	32	2
Finneran	11	111	10.1	19	0
Mughelli	7	51	7.3	21	1
Weems	6	50	8.3	30	2
Turner	5	35	7.0	10	0
Stecker	5	34	6.8	14	0
Haynes	3	20	6.7	10	0
FALCONS	**332**	**3697**	**11.1**	**90**	**26**
OPPONENTS	335	3871	11.6	65	25

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan	451	263	2916	22	14
Redman	119	69	781	4	3
FALCONS	**570**	**332**	**3697**	**26**	**17**
OPPONENTS	536	335	4041	25	15

SACKS — FALCONS 28, OPPONENTS 27

Babineaux 6, Abraham 5.5, Biermann 5, Nicholas 3, DeCoud 2, Johnson 2, Davis 1, Jackson 1, Peterson 1, Sidbury 1, Anderson 0.5

despite injuries.

Thanks to Baker and Dahl's injury woes, the reserves saw a ton of snaps a year ago. Will Svitek was solid as Baker's backup, and Quinn Ojinnaka and Garrett Reynolds both saw extensive action at guard.

The massive Reynolds was drafted as a tackle but will continue to be cross-trained for both positions.

GRADE: B-

DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder flashed more of a gambling-and-blitzing scheme last year after sitting in a cover 2 for most of 2008. The idea was to play a more attacking style and force teams into making mistakes and creating turnovers. But a leaky secondary and a disappearing pass rush forced the Falcons to retreat to a more calculating posture.

The team will utilize the 4-3 as its main alignment in an effort to return to that blitzing, attacking style. The addition of top cornerback Dunta Robinson will improve the entire defense.

Defensive line The team does not appear worried about defensive end John Abraham's decrease in sacks from 16.5 two years ago to 5.5 last season, or that Jamaal Anderson's future appears to be as a run-stuffing defensive end and pass-rushing tackle on third downs.

That's because defensive end Kroy Biermann showed he can get to the passer on third downs, while Lawrence Sidbury flashed some skill when he got on the field late in the season.

Falcons coach Mike Smith believes Abraham will have a bounceback year and benefit from the return of nose tackle Peria Jerry. Last season's first-round pick made two starts before being lost for the season with a knee injury. The Falcons are hoping Jerry and tackle Jonathan Babineaux can cause enough trouble inside to allow Abraham to get back on track.

Chauncey Davis has been steady as a reserve defensive end, while Vance Walker and Thomas Johnson, who made 10 starts last season, are solid backups at defensive tackle.

GRADE: C

Linebackers Middle linebacker Curtis Lofton continued to develop into one of the league's top tacklers last season, staying on the field on third downs unlike his rookie campaign. Still, more improvement in coverage is expected from Lofton so the Falcons can utilize him more in their blitz packages. Moving from sideline to sideline, Lofton is usually around the ball laying his pads on the ballcarrier.

Mike Peterson was added last season as a free agent to replace the departed Keith Brooking, and he helped the Falcons finish 10th against the run. However, Peterson turned 34 this offseason and struggled at times in pass coverage against running backs. Given Peterson's limited shelf life, the Falcons drafted Sean Weatherspoon in the first round, and he is expected to compete for the starting weakside spot.

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE SMITH

Smith has been a by-the-book traditionalist in his first two seasons as a head coach. He rarely gambles but did go for a few uncharacteristic fourth-down attempts last season. As he gets more comfortable with his young talent, look for him to take more chances.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	340.4	16
RUSHING	117.3	15
PASSING	223.2	14
SCORING	363	13
PUNT RETURNS	10.0	9
KICK RETURNS	24.3	6
RED ZONE TD %	51.8	15
TOTAL DEFENSE	348.9	21
AGAINST RUSH	106.9	10t
AGAINST PASS	241.9	28
POINTS ALLOWED	325	14t
INTERCEPTIONS	15	16t
SACKS	28	26t
TURNOVER DIFF.	3	11t

FALCONS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Chuck Smith** *(1992-99)* — **58.5**
2. **Patrick Kerney** *(1999-2006)* — **58.0**
3. **Travis Hall** *(1996-2004)* — **41.5**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Pittsburgh — SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 2 Arizona — SEPT. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 3 @ New Orleans — SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 4 San Francisco — OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 5 @ Cleveland — OCT. 10 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 6 @ Philadelphia — OCT. 17 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 7 Cincinnati — OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

>> WEEK 8 OPEN DATE

WEEK 9 Tampa Bay — NOV. 7 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 10 Baltimore — NOV. 11 | 8:20 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 11 @ St. Louis — NOV. 21 | 4:05 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 12 Green Bay — NOV. 28 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 13 @ Tampa Bay — DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 14 @ Carolina — DEC. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 15 @ Seattle — DEC. 19 | 4:05 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 16 New Orleans — DEC. 27 | 8:30 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 17 Carolina — JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Stephen Nicholas was a first-time starter at strongside linebacker last year and utilized as a rush end in the 3-3-5 nickel package periodically. He finished with three sacks.

Coy Wire is a special teams maven, and Spencer Adkins, who flashed his speed last year as a gunner, is being groomed for the outside linebacker position. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸▸ This unit received a great deal of attention in the offseason, when starter Chris Houston was traded to the Detroit Lions for a seventh-round pick after Robinson signed a six-year, $57 million contract. Atlanta also released cornerback Tye Hill.

The Falcons are counting on Robinson, who starred in the Texans' secondary, to play like a No. 1 cornerback. If Brian Williams can return from offseason knee surgery, the Falcons could have a quality set of starting cornerbacks for the first time since the late 1990s.

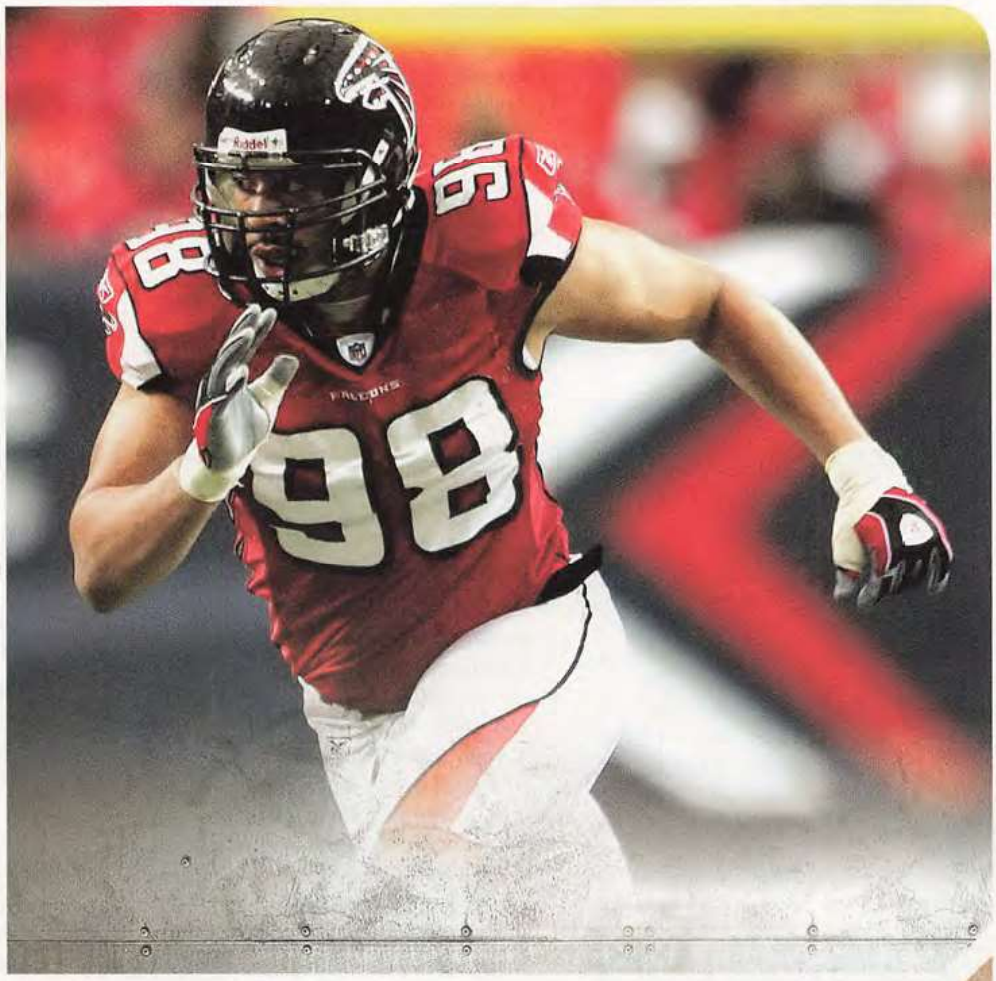
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

CB Dunta Robinson *(FA/Texans)*, **S Matt Giordano** *(FA/Packers)*

SUBTRACTIONS

C Mike Schneck *(retired)*, **TE Jason Rader** *(retired)*, **CB Tye Hill** *(FA/Titans)*, **WR Marty Booker** *(FA)*, **CB Chris Houston** *(trade/Lions)*



ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

THE BOOK ON ... JAMAAL ANDERSON

(how a rival sizes him up)

"When you are the No. 8 pick in the draft there is always the hope that the player will turn into a dominant force or at least make it to the Pro Bowl level. I know they were expecting him to be this great pass rusher and it's pretty clear that's not going to happen. But he is developing into a solid player against the run and is not a liability on first and second down. ...

"He's stout at the point of attack, doesn't back down from a fight and has a generally good motor. He just seems to lack the instincts of a pass rusher on the outside. When they move him down inside, he is solid there too. Maybe (they) did take him too high, but he's a football player."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
8 Redman, Chris	QB	6-3	221	07/07/1977	8	Louisville
2 Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	220	05/17/1985	3	Boston College
1 Shockley, D.J.	QB	6-0	218	03/25/1983	3	Georgia
4 Wilson, John Parker	QB	6-2	211	10/17/1985	2	Alabama

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
72 Baker, Sam	T	6-5	312	05/30/1985	3	USC
63 Blalock, Justin	G	6-4	333	12/20/1983	4	Texas
67 Bruggeman, Rob	C	6-4	293	03/02/1986	1	Iowa
77 Clabo, Tyson	T	6-6	332	10/17/1981	5	Wake Forest
73 Dahl, Harvey	G	6-5	308	06/24/1981	4	Nevada
62 McClure, Todd	C	6-1	301	02/16/1977	12	LSU
76 Ojinnaka, Quinn	T	6-5	305	04/23/1984	5	Syracuse
75 Reynolds, Garrett	T	6-7	310	07/01/1987	2	North Carolina
66 Romberg, Brett	C	6-2	298	10/10/1979	7	Miami (FL)
69 Schlueter, Blake	C	6-3	284	04/22/1986	1	TCU
74 Svitek, Will	T	6-6	300	01/08/1982	5	Stanford
65 Valdez, Jose	G	6-6	310	12/13/1986	1	Arkansas

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Mughelli, Ovie	RB	6-1	245	06/10/1980	8	Wake Forest
32 Norwood, Jerious	RB	5-11	202	07/29/1983	5	Mississippi State
35 Smith, Antone	RB	5-9	190	09/17/1985	1	Florida State
44 Snelling, Jason	RB	5-11	229	12/29/1983	4	Virginia
33 Turner, Michael	RB	5-10	244	02/13/1982	7	Northern Illinois

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
11 Bergeron, Troy	WR	6-2	198	12/03/1983	2	Middle Tennessee
83 Douglas, Harry	WR	5-11	171	09/16/1984	2	Louisville
86 Finneran, Brian	WR	6-5	206	01/31/1976	10	Villanova
88 Gonzalez, Tony	TE	6-5	251	02/27/1976	14	California
12 Jenkins, Michael	WR	6-4	215	06/18/1982	7	Ohio State
87 Peelle, Justin	TE	6-4	250	03/15/1979	9	Oregon
15 Strickland, Andy	WR	6-0	197	09/02/1987	1	Wofford
14 Weems, Eric	WR	5-9	191	07/04/1985	3	Bethune-Cookman
84 White, Roddy	WR	6-0	208	11/02/1981	6	UAB
82 Zelenka, Joe	TE	6-3	256	03/09/1976	12	Wake Forest
89 Zinger, Keith	TE	6-4	268	10/09/1984	2	LSU

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Abraham, John	DE	6-4	266	05/06/1978	11	South Carolina
98 Anderson, Jamaal	DE	6-6	283	02/06/1986	4	Arkansas
95 Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6-2	288	10/12/1981	6	Iowa
71 Biermann, Kroy	DE	6-3	241	09/12/1985	3	Montana
92 Davis, Chauncey	DE	6-2	274	01/27/1983	6	Florida State
94 Jerry, Peria	DT	6-2	290	08/23/1984	1	Ole Miss
93 Johnson, Thomas	DT	6-2	305	06/24/1981	3	Middle Tennessee
68 Klecko, Dan	DT	5-11	275	01/12/1981	7	Temple
97 Lewis, Trey	DT	6-3	323	05/23/1985	3	Washburn
90 Sidbury, Lawrence	DE	6-3	265	02/06/1986	2	Richmond
99 Walker, Vance	DT	6-2	293	04/26/1987	2	Georgia Tech

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
26 Coleman, Erik	S	5-10	206	05/16/1982	7	Washington State
28 DeCoud, Thomas	S	6-0	197	03/19/1985	3	California
47 Giordano, Matt	S	5-11	200	10/16/1982	6	California
20 Grimes, Brent	CB	5-10	185	07/19/1983	3	Shippensburg
22 Jackson, Chevis	CB	5-11	185	12/11/1985	3	LSU
25 Moore, William	S	6-0	218	05/18/1985	2	Missouri
21 Owens, Christopher	CB	5-9	181	12/01/1986	2	San Jose State
23 Robinson, Dunta	CB	5-10	182	04/11/1982	7	South Carolina
29 Williams, Brian	CB	5-11	202	07/02/1979	9	N.C. State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59 Adkins, Spencer	LB	5-11	246	05/16/1987	2	Miami (FL)
45 James, Robert	LB	5-11	220	12/26/1983	2	Arizona State
50 Lofton, Curtis	LB	6-0	248	06/02/1986	3	Oklahoma
54 Nicholas, Stephen	LB	6-3	232	05/01/1983	4	South Florida
53 Peterson, Mike	LB	6-1	238	06/17/1976	12	Florida
52 Wire, Coy	LB	6-0	228	11/07/1978	9	Stanford

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Bryant, Matt	K	5-9	200	05/29/1975	9	Baylor
6 Hauschka, Steve	K	6-4	210	06/29/1985	3	N.C. State
9 Koenen, Michael	P	5-11	199	07/13/1982	6	Western Washington

» MIKE SMITH, *Head coach*
Mike Mularkey, offensive coordinator; **Brian VanGorder,** defensive coordinator; **Keith Armstrong,** special teams coordinator; **Paul Boudreau,** offensive line; **Paul Dunn,** offensive line assistant; **Gerald Brown,** running backs; **Chris Scelfo,** tight ends; **Terry Robiskie,** wide receivers; **Bill Musgrave,** assistant head coach/quarterbacks; **Tim Lewis,** assistant head coach/secondary; **Alvin Reynolds,** defensive backs; **Glenn Pires,** linebackers; **Ray Hamilton,** defensive line

Brent Grimes and Christopher Owens ended last season as the starting cornerbacks and will battle with Chevis Jackson for the third corner spot. Grimes is athletic, as evidenced by the leaping interception he made against Saints quarterback Drew Brees last season. He also led the team with six interceptions in '09.

Thomas DeCoud must improve at free safety like veteran Erik Coleman did last year after shifting to strong safety. William Moore, a strong safety taken in the second round of the 2009 draft, missed most of his rookie season due to injury, but he may mount a challenge to supplant Coleman. Free agent Matt Giordano was also added to the mix. **GRADE: C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Matt Bryant and Steve Hauschka will battle for the kicking chores in training camp. Bryant was steady after replacing Jason Elam last season, but Hauschka is a big kid with a lively leg. If he wants to beat out Bryant, Hauschka needs to learn to control his mechanics.

Punter Michael Koenen averaged 42.6 yards per punt last season but helps the coverage unit with his directional punting and hangtime. He only had three touchbacks on 61 punts and placed 18 inside the opposition's 20-yard line.

Rookie Dominique Franks is expected to win the punt and kickoff return jobs, leaving Norwood and Douglas to concentrate on their main offensive chores. Joe Zelenka is the long snapper. **GRADE: C+**

BOTTOM LINE

Atlanta's roster will remain one of the youngest in the league, and success will depend on the continued development of Ryan and the return to health of Turner. Also, Lofton has to step into his cleats as a leader on defense.

If the Falcons can dodge the mounting injuries they had last year, an NFC South title and solid postseason run is realistic.

FANTASY SPIN
www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Michael Turner missed five games with a sprained ankle last year, but he was on pace for about 1,500 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns before the injury.

BUY
Roddy White
WR

SELL
Jerious Norwood
RB

SLEEPER
Matt Ryan
QB

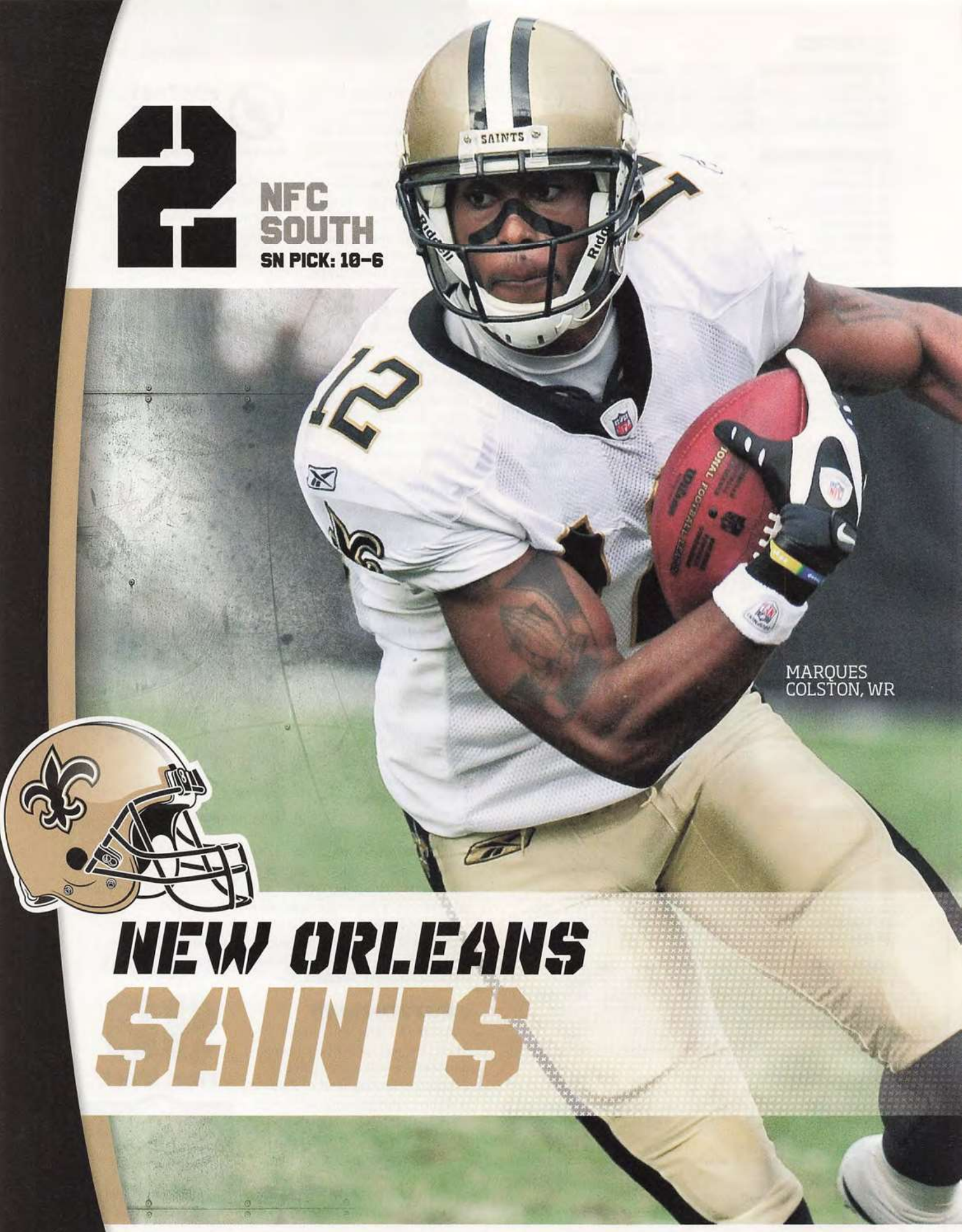
90
FINAL GRADE

UP
STOCK REPORT

2

NFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 10-6



MARQUES COLSTON, WR

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Talented Saints face tough task in fighting Super hangover

By Mike Triplett, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*

On the morning after he led the Saints to the first Super Bowl victory in franchise history, sleep-deprived MVP quarterback Drew Brees said, "I think what's going to be fun is using the term 'repeat' all next year."

But as recent history has shown, that will be much easier said than done.

Over the past 11 years, only one team has repeated a Super Bowl win (the 2004 Patriots). None of the other 10 defending champions even reached a conference title game, and five missed the playoffs altogether.

Still, the Saints have plenty of reason for optimism, as they kept their roster almost completely intact. Their defense should be even better in Year 2 under coordinator Gregg Williams. And, of course, they still have offensive whiz Sean Payton calling the shots for Brees, who has emerged as one of the top quarterbacks in the game, if not the best.

OFFENSE

Offense is what the Saints do best, and theirs is better than any team in the NFL. Payton and Brees have formed a brilliant partnership over the past four years, which culminated last season into a spectacular Super Bowl performance.

Payton is perhaps the league's most creative play-caller, and he uses a deep stable of offensive talent and an endless amount of formations and alignments to keep defenses off balance.

The Saints finally added a consistent rushing attack in 2009, allowing them to go from a .500 team in 2008 to NFL champions.

Quarterbacks Brees cemented his place among the league's top quarterbacks with a sensational Super Bowl performance last year. He completed 29 of his final 32 pass attempts while leading New Orleans back from a 10-point deficit against the Indianapolis Colts.

Despite his 6-0 stature, Brees sees the field as well as anyone who has ever played the game. He set the NFL record for completion percentage (70.6) in 2009, led the league with a passer rating of 109.6 and finished second in the MVP voting behind Indianapolis' Peyton Manning.

The Saints don't have a proven backup behind Brees, so losing him for any significant stretch would be difficult to overcome. They would like second-year pro Chase Daniel (another 6-footer) to challenge for the backup role, but he may have to fend off seventh-round pick Sean Canfield for a roster spot. **GRADE: A+**

Running backs The Saints used a committee approach at tailback in 2009, with Pierre Thomas, Reggie Bush and Mike Bell splitting the workload. But Thomas, a restricted free agent at press time, emerged as a bona fide No. 1 back in his third NFL season, gaining 1,095 yards from scrimmage in the regular season. He appears primed to take on a bigger role now that Bell has gone to Philadelphia.

Bush hasn't been the consistent game-breaker everyone expected when he was drafted No. 2 overall out of USC in 2006. But the dynamic athlete is still a huge part of the Saints' offense as a runner, receiver, punt-return specialist and all-around distraction for defenses.

Third-year pro Lynell Hamilton seems like a natural fit to replace Bell as the short-yardage specialist, while fullback Heath Evans will be back from a torn ACL that ended his first season in New Orleans prematurely. **GRADE: B**

Receivers The Saints like to spread the wealth in their high-powered passing attack. Receiver Marques Colston, a big

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

ROBERT MEACHEM — **WR**

Meachem has been stalling his breakthrough ever since he was a first-round pick out of Tennessee four years ago. But he finally started living up to his potential with nine touchdowns in 2009 and could put up some monster numbers for the Saints this year.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Drew Brees Chase Daniel
FB	Heath Evans Zak Keasey
RB	Pierre Thomas Reggie Bush
LT	Jammal Brown Jermon Bushrod
LG	Carl Nicks Tim Duckworth
C	Jonathan Goodwin Nick Leckey
RG	Jahri Evans Tim Duckworth
RT	Jon Stinchcomb Zach Strief
TE	Jeremy Shockey David Thomas
WR	Marques Colston Robert Meachem
WR	Devery Henderson Lance Moore
	DEFENSE
DE	Alex Brown Jimmy Wilkerson
DT	Sedrick Ellis Anthony Hargrove
DT	Remi Ayodele Al Woods
DE	Will Smith Bobby McCray
SLB	Jo-Lonn Dunbar Troy Evans
MLB	Jonathan Vilma Marvin Mitchell
WLB	Scott Shanle Jonathan Casillas
LCB	Jabari Greer Randall Gay
SS	Roman Harper Chris Reis
FS	Darren Sharper Usama Young
RCB	Tracy Porter Malcolm Jenkins
	SPECIALISTS
K	Garrett Hartley
P	Thomas Morstead
KR	Courtney Roby
PR	Reggie Bush
LS	Jason Kyle

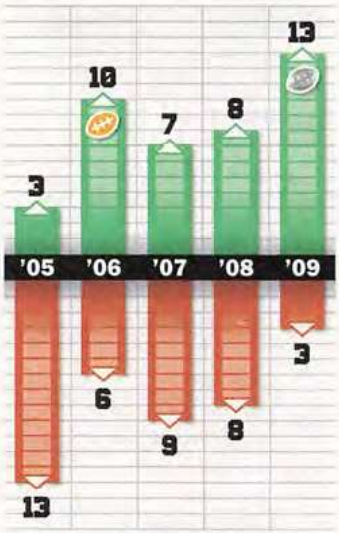
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 13-3 HOME: 6-2

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/saints
www.neworleanssaints.com

STADIUM
Louisiana Superdome
Capacity: 72,968 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 504-731-1700
Training Camp: Saints Practice Facility, Metairie, La.; 504-731-1804

FERNANDO MEDINA / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR RECORD: 41-39



KEY: PLAYOFFS | NFC TITLE | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

target at 6-4 and 225 pounds, is the closest thing Brees has to a go-to guy. But Brees' favorite receiver is truly the open man.

Former first-round draft pick Robert Meachem finally emerged as a big-play threat in his third NFL season, leading the team in 2009 with nine touchdowns. Veteran speedster Devery Henderson is one of the league's most dangerous deep threats. And the Saints like to use Lance Moore as a Wes Welker-type of possession receiver.

Tight end Jeremy Shockey also causes matchup problems for defenses, which the Saints love to exploit. Backup David Thomas emerged as a legitimate threat in the passing game as well in 2009 after the Saints acquired him from New England in a late-summer trade. And third-round pick Jimmy Graham is an exciting but raw prospect who could emerge into another weapon. The former Miami (Fla.) basketball player was on the Hurricanes' football team for just one year. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸▸ Four of the Saints' projected starting offensive linemen have already been to the Pro Bowl. And the fifth—massive left guard Carl Nicks—could have joined them in 2009. New Orleans has perhaps the best tandem of guards in the league in first-team All-Pro right guard Jahri Evans and Nicks. Both are big, powerful bodies with a great deal of athleticism, which comes in handy on stretch run plays and screen passes.

At left tackle, the Saints have two experienced options from which to choose. Veteran Jammal Brown is a two-time Pro Bowler who missed the entire 2009 season after having hip and sports hernia surgeries. Fourth-year pro Jermon Bushrod played well in Brown's absence. And the Saints added even more depth with second-round pick Charles Brown out of USC, a potential future starter at left tackle.

Right tackle Jon Stinchcomb is as reliable as they come, with the versatility to run block, pass block and get down the field on screen plays. He earned his first Pro Bowl nod in 2009. And backup tackle Zach Strief would probably be good enough to start for many teams in the league.

Veteran center Jonathan Goodwin is another solid starter with a good mix of power and athleticism. He earned his first Pro Bowl invite as an alternate in 2009. **GRADE: A**

▸ *DEFENSE*

New Orleans' defense went from a liability to a strength in 2009 with the arrival of the aggressive Williams as coordinator, free-agent cornerback Jabari Greer and free-agent safety Darren Sharper, among others.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	403.8	1
RUSHING	131.6	6
PASSING	272.2	4
SCORING	510	1
PUNT RETURNS	4.6	31
KICK RETURNS	24.4	4
RED ZONE TD %	57.7	6
TOTAL DEFENSE	357.8	25
AGAINST RUSH	122.2	21
AGAINST PASS	235.6	26
POINTS ALLOWED	341	20
INTERCEPTIONS	26	3
SACKS	35	13t
TURNOVER DIFF.	11	3

SAINTS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1	Rickey Jackson *(1981-93)*	115.0
2	Wayne Martin *(1989-99)*	82.5
3	Pat Swilling *(1986-92)*	76.5

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

If you're looking for big points at quarterback, Drew Brees is your man. He threw for 4,388 yards and 34 touchdowns last year in a high-flying offense.

BUY
Marques Colston
WR

SELL
Jeremy Shockey
TE

SLEEPER
Robert Meachem
WR

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Saints)*

"The triggerman there, Drew Brees, is obviously special. He has a real instinct about him and an awareness, and they take good advantage of that. ...

"Their receivers are all very good, and (what) makes them so tough is that each one is his own monster. You've got (Marques) Colston, who's that big zone-buster with the vertical speed to get up top, and then you've got Devery (Henderson), who is just flat out pure juice, and on top of that you have Lance Moore, who still has it. ...

"And then you've got (Robert) Meachem, who is really coming on. Then you throw (Jeremy) Shockey into the mix and you've just got a bunch of different characters that you have to consider and worry about. ...

"At running back everyone is going to tell you that Pierre (Thomas) is just a guy, but he's a workhorse and he's a powerful runner, and while he may not be real flashy, he's just flat out productive. Then you have Reggie (Bush), who's just a dynamic playmaker, and there's only a handful of those guys in the league.

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	45-27	Detroit Lions
09/20	W	48-22	at Philadelphia Eagles
09/27	W	27-7	at Buffalo Bills
10/04	W	24-10	New York Jets
10/18	W	48-27	New York Giants
10/25	W	46-34	at Miami Dolphins
11/02	W	35-27	Atlanta Falcons
11/08	W	30-20	Carolina Panthers
11/15	W	28-23	at St. Louis Rams
11/22	W	38-7	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/30	W	38-17	New England Patriots
12/06	W	33-30	at Washington Redskins
12/13	W	26-23	at Atlanta Falcons
12/19	L	17-24	Dallas Cowboys
12/27	L	17-20	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
01/03	L	10-23	at Carolina Panthers

WON 13, LOST 3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
P. Thomas	147	793	5.4	34	6
Bell	172	654	3.8	35	5
Bush	70	390	5.6	55	5
Hamilton	35	125	3.6	19	2
Meachem	6	82	13.7	41	0
Brees	22	33	1.5	10	2
Evans	5	16	3.2	6	1
Henderson	4	13	3.3	13	0
Eckel	2	6	3.0	7	0
Colston	1	6	6.0	6	0
Brunell	4	-12	-3.0	-1	0
SAINTS	468	2106	4.5	55	21
OPPONENTS	435	1955	4.5	68	19

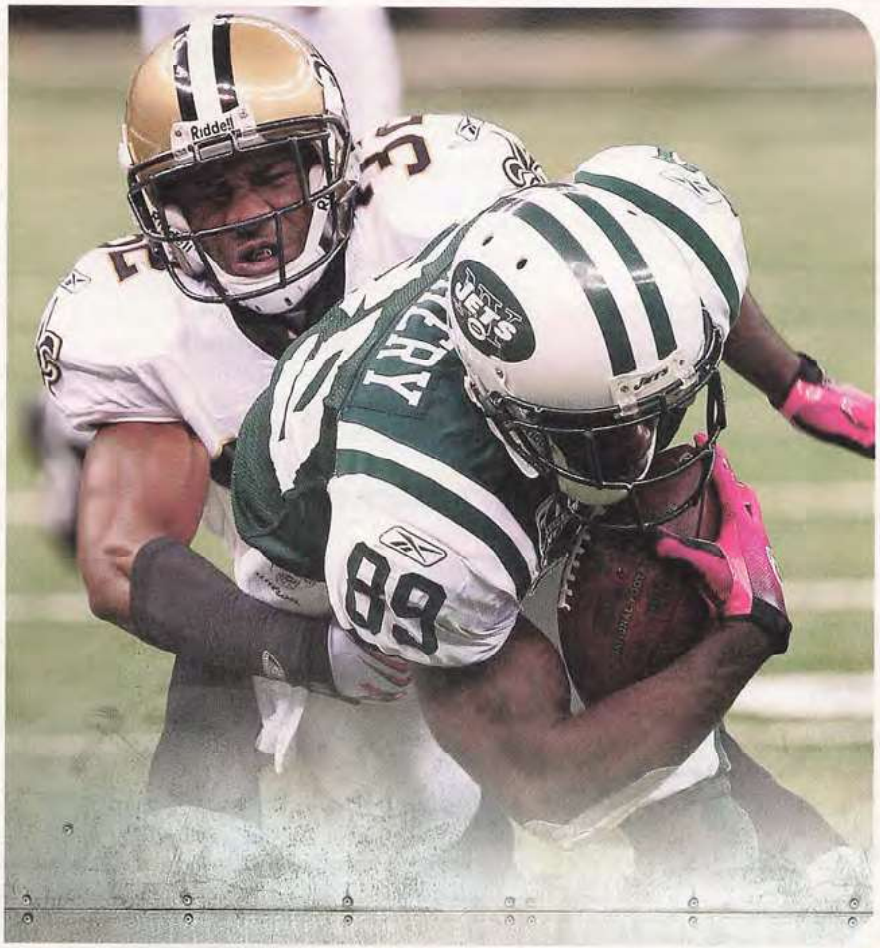
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Colston	70	1074	15.3	68	9
Henderson	51	804	15.8	75	2
Shockey	48	569	11.9	66	3
Bush	47	335	7.1	29	3
Meachem	45	722	16.0	54	9
P. Thomas	39	302	7.7	36	2
D. Thomas	35	356	10.2	37	1
Moore	14	153	10.9	22	2
Evans	10	70	7.0	13	2
Hamilton	5	48	9.6	16	0
Dinkins	5	22	4.4	8	1
Bell	4	12	3.0	9	0
Eckel	2	14	7.0	8	0
Humphrey	1	7	7.0	7	0
Roby	1	6	6.0	6	0
Brees	1	-4	-4.0	-4	0
SAINTS	378	4490	11.9	75	34
OPPONENTS	330	3769	11.4	71	15

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brees	514	363	4388	34	11
Brunell	30	15	102	0	1
SAINTS	544	378	4490	34	12
OPPONENTS	574	330	3961	15	26

SACKS — SAINTS 35, OPPONENTS 20

Smith 13, Grant 5.5, Hargrove 5, Ellis 2, Vilma 2, Ayodele 1.5, Harper 1.5, McCray 1.5, Fujita 1, Gay 1, Shanle 0.5, Torrence 0.5

AL PEREIRA / GETTY IMAGES



THE BOOK ON ... JABARI GREER

(how a rival sizes him up)

"I think Greer is talented, but for me he's really kind of a middle-of-the-road type of guy. And even though he came back and did well last year, I still wonder how he's going to be after the (groin) injury. What I like is he's really aware of what's going on out on the field. He's really focused, and he does a good job recognizing things. He has good anticipation, which he's going to have to rely on a little more maybe as he gets older and these injuries start to pile up on him. He's a smart player. Positionally, he's very solid and he uses his hands well. He's not a big guy, but he's competitive, and when you add that to his instincts and intelligence you get a nice little player."

Williams' attacking style led to 39 takeaways in the regular season and another eight in the postseason. The Saints abused three potential Hall of Fame quarterbacks—Kurt Warner, Brett Favre and Peyton Manning—during their Super Bowl run.

Defensive line ▸▸ Right end Will Smith returned to peak form in 2009 with a career-high 13 sacks. The 6-3, 282-pounder was more dynamic and explosive after healing from a sports hernia that plagued him the year before.

The Saints parted ways with longtime left end Charles Grant in the offseason, releasing him before the start of free agency. But they replaced him with another proven veteran in former Chicago Bears starter Alex Brown, who has the skill set to play the run and rush the passer. New Orleans also has veteran pass-rushing specialist Bobby McCray in the fold, and they added veteran pass rusher Jimmy Wilkerson in free agency.

The Saints need to play better against the run up front, which became a problem during the second half of the season. Defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis, the seventh overall draft pick in

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Minnesota — SEPT. 9 | 8:30 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 2 @ San Francisco — SEPT. 20 | 8:30 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 3 Atlanta — SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 4 Carolina — OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 5 @ Arizona — OCT. 10 | 4:05 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 6 @ Tampa Bay — OCT. 17 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 7 Cleveland — OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 8 Pittsburgh — OCT. 31 | 8:20 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 9 @ Carolina — NOV. 7 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 10 OPEN DATE

WEEK 11 Seattle — NOV. 21 | 4:05 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 12 @ Dallas — NOV. 25 | 4:15 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 13 @ Cincinnati — DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 14 St. Louis — DEC. 12 | 4:05 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 15 @ Baltimore — DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 16 @ Atlanta — DEC. 27 | 8:30 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 17 Tampa Bay — JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

2008, has shown flashes of potential in his first two seasons but hasn't consistently shined yet. With his combination of power and athleticism, he could still be a star for the Saints.

Fifth-year player Remi Ayodele emerged as the starting nose tackle in 2009 and was solid, though unspectacular. Fourth-round draft pick Al Woods will challenge him for playing time. Backup Anthony Hargrove, who resurrected his career after a yearlong suspension for substance abuse, showed great potential as a pass-rush specialist up the middle. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers ›› Middle linebacker Jonathan Vilma is an active and athletic playmaker who covers a lot of ground across the middle of the field.

Veteran outside linebacker Scott Shanle isn't a dynamic playmaker, but he's a solid, reliable starter who holds his own against the run and in coverage. The Saints lost a similar player in former strongside starter Scott Fujita, who left for Cleveland in free agency. New Orleans is hoping a young player will emerge from a deep group of candidates, including Jo-Lonn Dunbar, Jonathan Casillas, Marvin Mitchell and Anthony Waters, among others. **GRADE: C**

Secondary ›› What used to be New Orleans' most glaring weakness became its greatest defensive strength in 2009, thanks to the emergence of lockdown cornerbacks Greer and Tracy Porter.

Greer, who arrived as a free agent from Buffalo, was sensational when healthy, though the team suffered when he missed seven games with a groin injury.

Porter also played at a shutdown level in

OFFSEASON MOVES

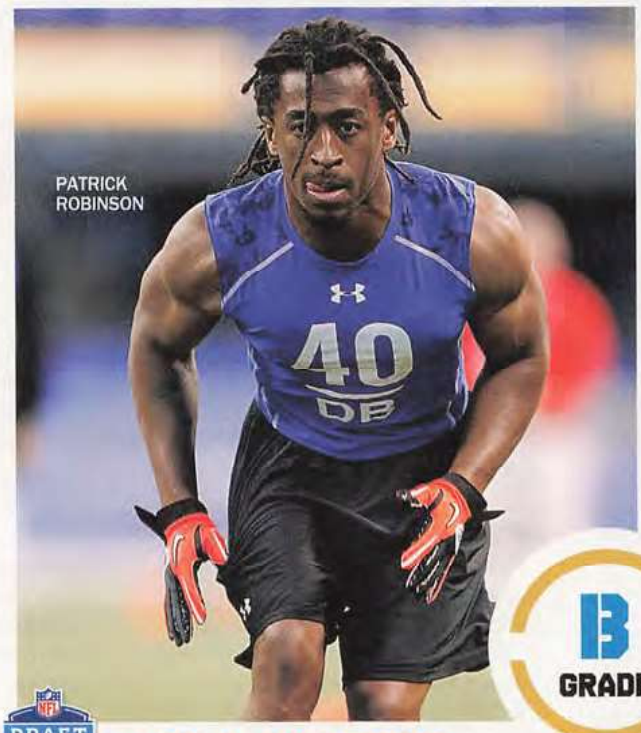
ADDITIONS

DE Alex Brown *(FA/Bears)*

SUBTRACTIONS

LB Scott Fujita *(FA/Browns)*, **QB Mark Brunell** *(FA)*, **TE Dan Campbell** *(FA)*, **DE Charles Grant** *(FA)*, **LB Mark Simoneau** *(FA)*, **G Jamar Nesbit** *(FA)*, **RB Mike Bell** *(FA/Eagles)*

DRAFT REPORT



B GRADE

The Saints sought players to develop in this draft, such as first-rounder **Patrick Robinson**. The cornerback was a great value pick with his speed, agility and ability to break up passes. He should contribute as a rookie. **Charles Brown** is a fluid, athletic offensive tackle who needs to be more consistent with his technique. Just give him time. Tight end **Jimmy Graham** only played one year of football and is raw, but his upside is unlimited. Defensive tackle **Al Woods** was chosen in the fourth round and will do well as a two-gap starting tackle in the NFL.

The fifth round gave the Saints center **Matt Tennant**, a likely career backup. New Orleans then chose quarterback **Sean Canfield**, another probable backup. He's slow in his release and will need to improve his arm strength in order to stick in the league for more than a few years.

›› 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	32	Patrick Robinson	CB	5-11	190	Florida State
2	32	Charles Brown	OT	6-6	303	USC
3	31	Jimmy Graham	TE	6-6	260	Miami (Fla.)
4	25	Al Woods	DT	6-4	309	LSU
5	27	Matt Tennant	C	6-5	300	Boston College
7	32	Sean Canfield	QB	6-4	223	Oregon State

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	01/15/1979	10	Purdue
10 Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	10/07/1986	2	Missouri

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
70 Brown, Jammal	T	6-6	313	03/30/1981	6	Oklahoma
74 Bushrod, Jermon	T	6-5	315	08/19/1984	4	Towson
72 Duckworth, Tim	G	6-4	318	09/14/1982	1	Auburn
73 Evans, Jahri	G	6-4	318	08/22/1983	5	Bloomsburg
75 Goddard, Na'Shan	G	6-5	315	04/23/1983	2	South Carolina
76 Goodwin, Jonathan	C	6-3	318	12/02/1978	9	Michigan
60 Leckey, Nick	C	6-3	300	03/12/1982	7	Kansas State
77 Nicks, Carl	G	6-5	341	05/14/1985	3	Nebraska
79 Parnell, Jermey	T	6-8	242	07/20/1986	1	Ole Miss
78 Stinchcomb, Jon	T	6-5	315	08/27/1979	8	Georgia
64 Strief, Zach	T	6-7	320	09/22/1983	5	Northwestern

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25 Bush, Reggie	RB	6-0	203	03/02/1985	5	USC
44 Evans, Heath	RB	6-0	250	12/30/1978	10	Auburn
30 Hamilton, Lynell	RB	6-0	235	08/05/1985	2	San Diego State
45 Keasey, Zak	RB	6-0	235	03/19/1982	3	Princeton
46 Mailei, Marcus	RB	6-0	255	10/30/1986	1	Weber State
23 Thomas, Pierre	RB	5-11	215	12/18/1984	4	Illinois

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
87 Arrington, Adrian	WR	6-3	203	11/07/1985	1	Michigan
12 Colston, Marques	WR	6-4	225	06/05/1983	5	Hofstra
13 Harper, Rod	WR	6-1	207	03/26/1985	1	Murray State
19 Henderson, Devery	WR	5-11	200	03/26/1982	7	LSU
84 Humphrey, Tory	TE	6-2	255	01/20/1983	5	Central Michigan
82 Lorenzen, Tyler	TE	6-5	222	12/24/1985	1	Connecticut
17 Meachem, Robert	WR	6-2	210	09/28/1984	4	Tennessee
16 Moore, Lance	WR	5-9	190	08/31/1983	5	Toledo
15 Roby, Courtney	WR	6-0	189	01/10/1983	5	Indiana
88 Shockey, Jeremy	TE	6-5	251	08/18/1980	9	Miami (FL)
81 Simon, Matt	WR	6-2	205	12/04/1985	1	Northern Illinois
85 Thomas, David	TE	6-3	248	07/05/1983	5	Texas

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
92 Ayodele, Remi	NT	6-2	300	04/22/1983	4	Oklahoma
96 Brown, Alex	DE	6-3	260	06/04/1979	9	Florida
97 Charleston, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	01/19/1983	4	Idaho State
98 Ellis, Sedrick	DT	6-1	305	07/09/1985	3	USC
69 Hargrove, Anthony	DE	6-3	272	07/20/1983	6	Georgia Tech
66 Heyman, Earl	DT	6-3	285	09/05/1987	1	Louisville
95 Leisle, Rodney	DT	6-3	315	02/05/1981	6	UCLA
93 McCray, Bobby	DE	6-6	261	08/08/1981	7	Florida
90 Pressley, DeMario	DT	6-3	295	11/03/1985	2	N.C. State
91 Smith, Will	DE	6-3	282	07/04/1981	7	Ohio State
97 Wilkerson, Jimmy	DE	6-2	270	01/04/1981	8	Oklahoma

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
38 Fassitt, Greg	CB	5-11	186	04/20/1985	2	Grambling State
20 Gay, Randall	CB	5-11	190	05/05/1982	7	LSU
32 Greer, Jabari	CB	5-11	180	02/11/1982	7	Tennessee
41 Harper, Roman	S	6-1	200	12/11/1982	5	Alabama
27 Jenkins, Malcolm	CB	6-0	204	12/20/1987	2	Ohio State
35 Jones, Reggie	CB	6-0	200	03/15/1986	1	Portland State
22 Porter, Tracy	CB	5-11	185	08/11/1986	3	Indiana
31 Prioleau, Pierson	S	5-11	188	08/06/1977	12	Virginia Tech
39 Reis, Chris	S	6-1	215	09/19/1983	4	Georgia Tech
29 Sharpe, Glenn	CB	6-0	185	02/27/1984	1	Miami (FL)
24 Torrence, Leigh	CB	5-11	179	01/04/1982	5	Stanford
37 Vaughn, Chip	S	6-2	215	10/26/1985	1	Wake Forest
28 Young, Usama	S	6-0	200	05/08/1985	4	Kent State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
99 Arnoux, Stanley	LB	6-1	240	09/09/1986	1	Wake Forest
52 Casillas, Jonathan	LB	6-2	226	06/03/1987	2	Wisconsin
56 Dunbar, Jo-Lonn	LB	6-0	233	03/13/1985	3	Boston College
54 Evans, Troy	LB	6-3	238	12/03/1977	9	Cincinnati
57 Kyle, Jason	LB	6-3	242	05/12/1972	16	Arizona State
50 Mitchell, Marvin	LB	6-3	249	10/21/1984	4	Tennessee
58 Shanle, Scott	LB	6-2	245	11/23/1979	8	Nebraska
51 Vilma, Jonathan	LB	6-1	230	04/16/1982	7	Miami (FL)
59 Waters, Anthony	LB	6-3	238	07/25/1984	4	Clemson

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Hartley, Garrett	K	5-8	204	05/16/1986	3	Oklahoma
6 Morstead, Thomas	P	6-5	215	03/08/1986	2	Southern Methodist

» SEAN PAYTON, *Head coach*
Pete Carmichael Jr., offensive coordinator; **Gregg Williams,** defensive coordinator; **Greg McMahon,** special teams coordinator; **Aaron Kromer,** offensive line/running game; **Bret Ingalls,** running backs; **Terry Malone,** tight ends; **Curtis Johnson,** wide receivers; **Joe Lombardi,** quarterbacks; **Dennis Allen,** secondary; **Tony Oden,** secondary assistant; **Joe Vitt,** assistant head coach/linebackers; **Bill Johnson,** defensive line; **Travis Jones,** defensive line assistant; **Mike Mallory,** special teams assistant

his second NFL season, as he made two of the biggest plays in franchise history with game-clinching interceptions in both the NFC championship game and Super Bowl.

The Saints can't expect a repeat performance at free safety, where Sharper found the fountain of youth in 2009, intercepting nine passes and returning three of them for touchdowns. The team re-signed Sharper to a one-year deal in the offseason.

Strong safety Roman Harper, a restricted free agent, benefited from Williams' arrival. Williams featured him as a hard-hitting hammer, both against the run and as a blitzer, which led to Harper's first Pro Bowl selection.

Second-year professional Malcolm Jenkins showed some impressive potential as a rookie and will likely start as the Saints' nickel cornerback though could be eventually groomed as a free safety, especially after the Saints used their first-round pick on Patrick Robinson out of Florida State. **GRADE: A-**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

SEAN PAYTON

Payton might be the most creative and aggressive play-caller in the NFL. He uses a limitless amount of formations and alignments to create matchup nightmares for defenses. He also solidified his reputation as one of the most aggressive gamblers in the NFL by opening the second half of the Super Bowl with the onside kick that sparked the Saints' come-from-behind win.

SPECIAL TEAMS

After recycling a series of punters and kickers over the last several seasons, the Saints have found two young legs they hope to rely on for years in kicker Garrett Hartley and punter Thomas Morstead.

Hartley sat behind veteran John Carney last year because of an early-season suspension. But after a shaky start, he nailed the four most important kicks in franchise history—the game-winning 40-yarder in overtime of the NFC championship, and then three field goals from 40-plus yards in the Super Bowl. The strong-legged Morstead, meanwhile, looks like a potential Pro Bowl player.

If Bush is healthier in 2010, the Saints will again have one of the biggest punt return threats in the NFL. Kick return man Courtney Roby is solid and just as valuable as a gunner on kick coverage. **GRADE: B-**

BOTTOM LINE

The Saints have what it takes to win another Super Bowl, and there is no clear reason why they should suffer a drop-off in 2010—other than the fact that every team in the league will be gunning for them.

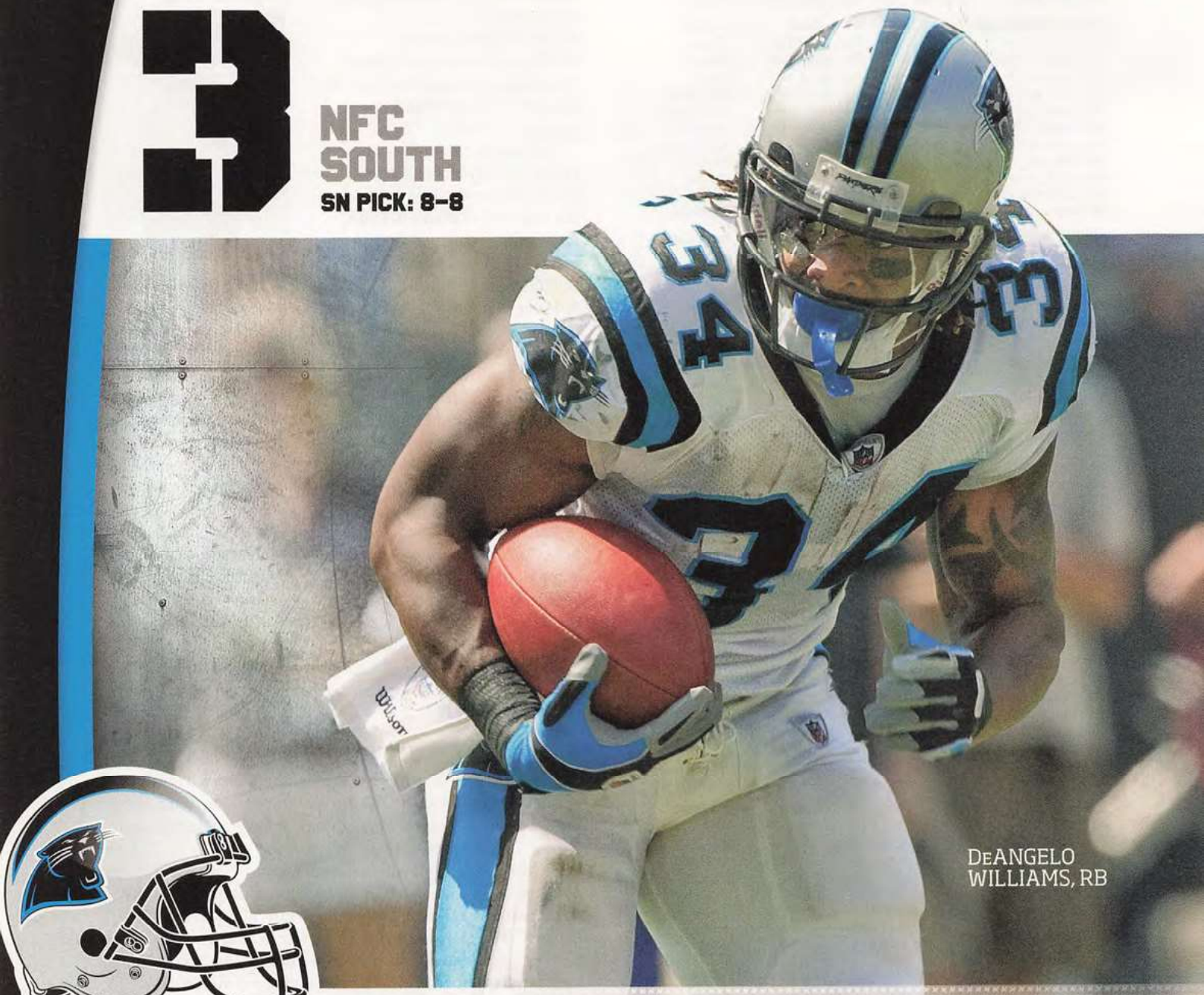
As long as New Orleans has Payton calling the plays and Brees running the offense, it has a chance to win.

90
FINAL GRADE

3

NFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 8-8



DeANGELO WILLIAMS, RB

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Can these kitty-cats claw back into the postseason?

By Darin Gantt, *The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald*

The Panthers are cutting costs left and right, but they might need to spend some money to add bibs and pacifiers to their uniforms in 2010.

This year's version will be defined by youth, with a slew of the team's recent draft picks expected to take on larger roles. Every expendable veteran was cut this offseason—including some who weren't expendable—which makes this year a challenge for coach John Fox in the last year of his contract.

Because of the turnover, it's hard to imagine them contending for a championship. At the same time, there are enough quality pieces left—particularly in the running game and the back seven of the defense—to keep the bottom from falling out this year.

OFFENSE

The Panthers' offense has always been run-heavy, but expect them to lean even more on rushing this year, given the change under center. While there's some degree of uncertainty regarding the quarterback situation, the Panthers aren't the first team to go through this transition and should be fine if they follow the steps of others before them.

Offensive coordinator Jeff Davidson (a former NFL offensive lineman) calls plays the way he played. It's a physical, no-nonsense style built around one of the league's top lines and best pair of running backs, which should keep Matt Moore from having to do too much in his first full year as a starter.

Quarterbacks The Panthers cut the cord on longtime quarterback Jake Delhomme, ending a period of stability and their greatest success at the position. But Delhomme's nightmare 2009 campaign (8 TDs, 18 INTs) made the move inevitable, and Moore's play late last season gave the team reason for hope.

Of course, the Panthers also remade the position on draft weekend, when they had Notre Dame's Jimmy Clausen fall into their laps and then drafted Cincinnati's Tony Pike later in the process. Along with 2009 practice squad member Hunter Cantwell (who management is high on), the Panthers have a total of eight games of starting experience (all by Moore), the fewest of any team in the league.

There are a few things at which Moore excels, including moving the pocket and throwing deep, but there's still the small matter of inexperience. Clausen will push him, since the Notre Dame offense is similar to Carolina's (Davidson was a former Charlie Weis assistant in New England).

While the early edge belongs to Moore, he can't falter as he has before. He took steps back in 2008 when he had a chance to win the backup job, and his laid-back personality is nearly the opposite of the fiery Delhomme. On one hand, he's 6-2 in his starts, but all have come in mop-up assignments in December with nothing to play for. **GRADE: C**

Running backs The Panthers have a legitimate debate as to which of their running backs deserves the bulk of the work, which is a magnificent luxury, since they might both be considered in the league's top 10.

Both DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart topped the 1,100-yard mark last year, the first tandem in league history to do so. They'll need to get well, as both had offseason surgeries and were limited in spring practices.

While some teams worry about jealousy, Williams and Stewart are best friends off the field, and each insists they're fine sharing

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

THOMAS DAVIS — LB

Davis had a chance to become a Pro Bowler before blowing out his knee last fall. If he comes back at full health, he'll find a defense tailor-made to his skills. It's no accident that coaches have compared him to Derrick Brooks.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Matt Moore Jimmy Clausen
FB	Tony Fiammetta Tyrell Sutton
RB	DeAngelo Williams Jonathan Stewart
LT	Jordan Gross Garry Williams
LG	Travelle Wharton C.J. Davis
C	Ryan Kalil Steve Justice
RG	Mackenzy Bernadeau Duke Robinson
RT	Jeff Otah Geoff Schwartz
TE	Jeff King Gary Barnidge
WR	Steve Smith Armanti Edwards
WR	Dwayne Jarrett Brandon LaFell
DEFENSE	
DE	Everette Brown Greg Hardy
DT	Tank Tyler Corvey Irvin
DT	Louis Leonard Ed Johnson
DE	Tyler Brayton Charles Johnson
SLB	Dan Connor Eric Norwood
MLB	Jon Beason Mortty Ivy
WLB	Thomas Davis James Anderson
LCB	Chris Gamble C.J. Wilson
SS	Sherrod Martin Aaron Francisco
FS	Charles Godfrey Aaron Francisco
RCB	Richard Marshall Captain Munnerlyn
SPECIALISTS	
K	John Kasay
P	Jason Baker
KR	Mike Goodson
PR	Captain Munnerlyn
LS	J.J. Jansen

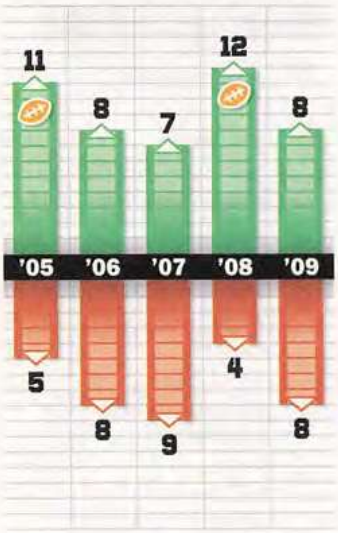
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 8-8 HOME: 5-3

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/panthers
www.panthers.com

STADIUM
Bank of America Stadium
Capacity: 73,298 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 704-358-7800
Training Camp: Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C.; 704-358-7000

OPPOSITE: BOB LEVERONE / SN

5-YEAR RECORD: 46-34



KEY PLAYOFFS | NFC TITLE | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Even in a shared backfield, DeAngelo Williams gets enough carries and has the talent to be a No. 1 fantasy running back. He should be at 100 percent following offseason foot surgery.

BUY
Jonathan Stewart
RB

SELL
Matt Moore
QB

SLEEPER
John Kasay
K

the load. As long as the Panthers can keep them together, they should remain one of the league's best running teams.

Carolina also has some solid depth behind the duo, with waiver claim Tyrell Sutton impressing in limited work. Also, the Panthers are breaking in a new fullback, as 2009 fourth-rounder Tony Fiammetta is replacing released veteran Brad Hoover. But the Panthers have so many horses in the backfield that it might not matter who's blocking. **GRADE: A+**

Receivers ▸▸ Carolina has one of the game's best deep threats in Steve Smith. The problem is, there's no one else to go with him.

The Panthers let dependable No. 2 Muhsin Muhammad walk away as a free agent without attempting to re-sign him, which leaves a starting job up in the air. Former second-round pick Dwayne Jarrett has struggled to step up in recent years but will get one more chance based on a lack of experienced options.

The rest of the group would be called journeymen if they were old enough, as players such as Kenny Moore, Charly Martin and Dexter Jackson have the chance to play legitimate roles this year. The team added third-round picks Brandon LaFell and Armanti Edwards on draft weekend; both could end up seeing significant time this season. **GRADE: C-**

Offensive line ▸▸ Four starters return on Carolina's line, and all are among the NFL's best at their positions.

Left tackle Jordan Gross and right tackle Jeff Otah are Pro Bowl-level players, with the only mild concern being Otah's tendency to get nicked up. Center Ryan Kalil has proven to be stronger than he looked coming out of college and continues to improve in calling protections. Travelle Wharton is an athletic left guard who can kick out to tackle in a pinch.

They will have to replace veteran Keydrick Vincent at right guard, but the Panthers have a group of young candidates in Mackenzy Bernadeau, Duke Robinson, Geoff Schwartz and enough experience around them to withstand the change. Given the shaky nature of the quarterback position, their ability to protect and clear running lanes is essential if the Panthers are going to have a chance this year. **GRADE: A**

DEFENSE

The Panthers' defense is in an unusual position, having long been defined by its defensive line and now not knowing if that group can even play. Three of the four starters are gone, highlighted by end Julius Peppers' departure for Chicago. Carolina also cut its starting tackles, putting some crucial jobs in the hands of untested youngsters. Coordinator Ron Meeks has

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	331.1	19
RUSHING	156.1	3
PASSING	174.9	27
SCORING	315	21
PUNT RETURNS	8.3	17
KICK RETURNS	19.9	31
RED ZONE TD %	50.0	18t
TOTAL DEFENSE	315.8	8
AGAINST RUSH	124.8	22
AGAINST PASS	191	4
POINTS ALLOWED	308	9
INTERCEPTIONS	22	5t
SACKS	31	23t
TURNOVER DIFF.	6	8t

PANTHERS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1	Julius Peppers *(2002-09)*	81.0
2	Mike Rucker *(1999-2007)*	55.5
3	Kevin Greene *(1996-99)*	41.5

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Panthers)

"The biggest question I have about them is their run defense. When you replace (Julius) Peppers with Everette Brown, you give up a good bit there, and who are their guys inside going to be? Jon Beason's good, but he needs a clear shot, and it's hard to say how he's going to react if the guys in front of him aren't taking up blockers. The big guys they've had there before (Ma'ake Kemoeatu and Hollis Thomas) helped him a lot, because he needs to be able to run to the ball to make plays. ...

"Obviously they're going to be able to run the ball. Those two backs are just great players, and the line is about as good as you'll see. But teams are going to stack it up on them and make (Matt) Moore make some plays, because you saw last year what happens when there's nobody besides Steve Smith for him to throw to."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	10-38	Philadelphia Eagles
09/20	L	20-28	at Atlanta Falcons
09/28	L	7-21	at Dallas Cowboys
10/11	W	20-17	Washington Redskins
10/18	W	28-21	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/25	L	9-20	Buffalo Bills
11/01	W	34-21	At Arizona Cardinals
11/08	L	30-20	at New Orleans Saints
11/15	W	28-19	Atlanta Falcons
11/19	L	17-19	Miami Dolphins
11/29	L	6-17	at New York Jets
12/06	W	16-6	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
12/13	L	10-20	at New England Patriots
12/20	W	26-7	Minnesota Vikings
12/27	W	41-9	at New York Giants
01/03	W	23-10	New Orleans Saints

WON 8, LOST 8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Stewart	221	1133	5.1	67	10
Williams	216	1117	5.2	77	7
Sutton	12	68	5.7	20	0
Delhomme	17	60	3.5	11	0
Hoover	20	52	2.6	18	1
Goodson	22	49	2.2	11	0
Smith	5	22	4.4	17	0
M. Moore	12	-3	-0.3	5	0
PANTHERS	**525**	**2498**	**4.8**	**77**	**18**
OPPONENTS	450	1997	4.4	46	15

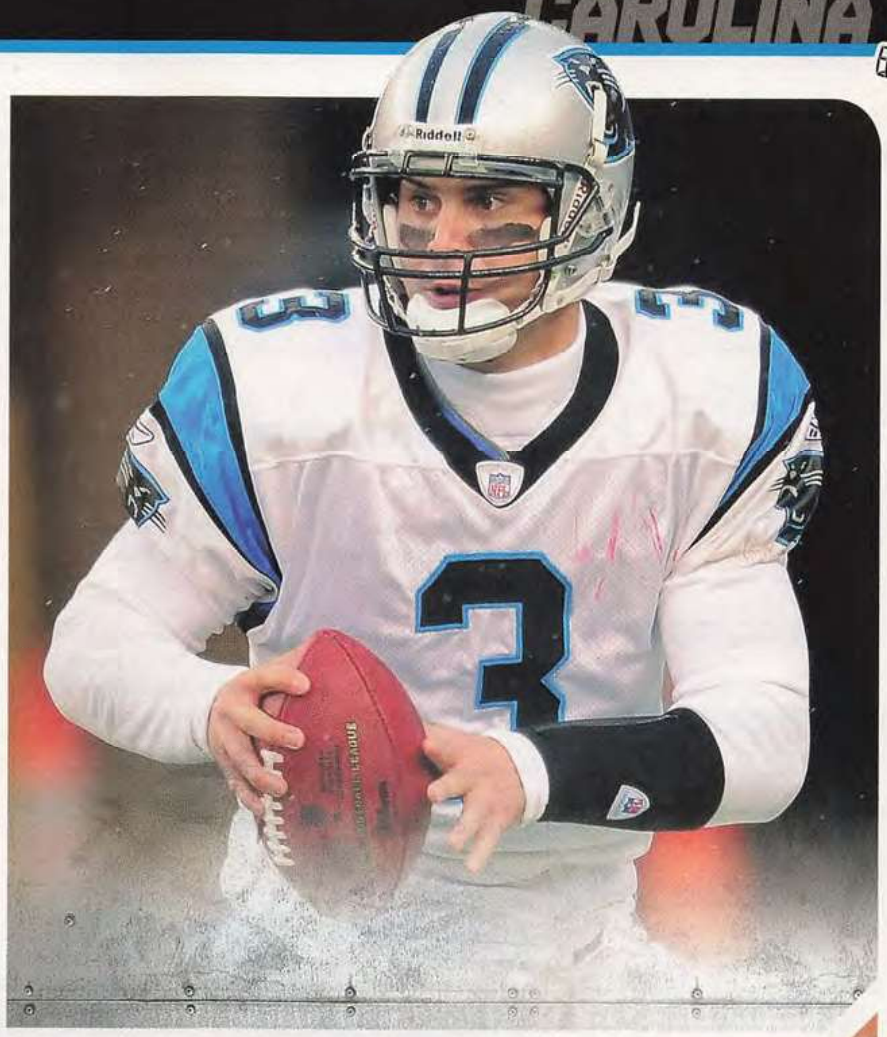
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith	65	982	15.1	66	7
Muhammad	53	581	11.0	27	1
Williams	29	252	8.7	30	0
Rosario	26	313	12.0	26	2
King	25	200	8.0	32	3
Stewart	18	139	7.7	19	1
Jarrett	17	196	11.5	30	1
Barnidge	12	242	20.2	55	0
Sutton	6	62	10.3	13	0
K. Moore	6	59	9.8	22	0
Hoover	4	23	5.8	12	1
Goodson	2	15	7.5	13	0
Martin	1	6	6.0	6	0
PANTHERS	**264**	**3070**	**11.6**	**66**	**16**
OPPONENTS	305	3056	10.0	63	14

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Delhomme	321	178	2015	8	18
M. Moore	138	85	1053	8	2
McCown	6	1	2	0	0
PANTHERS	**465**	**264**	**3070**	**16**	**20**
OPPONENTS	495	305	3249	14	22

SACKS — **PANTHERS 31, OPPONENTS 33**

Peppers 10.5, Brayton 5, Johnson 4, Beason 3, Brown 2.5, Davis 1.5, Anderson 1, Hayden 1, Wesley 1, Lewis 0.5

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER / NEWSCOM



THE BOOK ON ... MATT MOORE

(how a rival sizes him up)

"It's going to be interesting to see Matt Moore this year. When he was coming out of Oregon State, I wasn't sure he was an NFL player. He just kind of blended into the scenery up there, and after Derek Anderson looked good there, you weren't really wowed by him. He didn't have the same kind of arm, the same kind of physical skills. But give him credit—he's made plays. He's done a good job of moving the ball downfield for them when he's been in. ...

The important thing for him is how well he adjusts to other teams game-planning him. He's going to see things he hasn't seen yet, and if he adjusts, he could be OK. They have enough help for him up front it's going to give him time, but it's going to be on him if the Panthers are going to do anything."

long been willing to trade size for speed up front, and they've got that.

The Panthers do bring back a strong core of linebackers and an experienced secondary, but unless they can find some pass rushers, they're going to struggle to maintain the standard to which they're accustomed.

Defensive line ▸▸ With Peppers cashing big checks in Chicago and starting defensive tackles Damione Lewis and Ma'ake Kemoeatu released, the Panthers chose to begin anew up front. Which is fine, except Fox's philosophy is built upon getting pressure from the line, and now they can't count on that.

The team hopes that either Everette Brown or Charles Johnson can approach double-digit sacks. If not, the whole process could collapse. They did bring back steady Tyler Brayton, a solid player against the run who adds some push inside on passing downs, but the Panthers have little else to speak of at defensive end.

Trades brought in tackles Louis Leonard and Tank Tyler last year, but neither was able to show too much before injuries ended their seasons. They're the

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ N.Y. Giants	SEPT. 12	1:00
WEEK 2	Tampa Bay	SEPT. 19	1:00
WEEK 3	Cincinnati	SEPT. 26	1:00
WEEK 4	@ New Orleans	OCT. 3	1:00
WEEK 5	Chicago	OCT. 10	1:00
▸▸ WEEK 6	OPEN DATE		
WEEK 7	San Francisco	OCT. 24	1:00
WEEK 8	@ St. Louis	OCT. 31	1:00
WEEK 9	New Orleans	NOV. 7	1:00
WEEK 10	@ Tampa Bay	NOV. 14	1:00
WEEK 11	Baltimore	NOV. 21	1:00
WEEK 12	@ Cleveland	NOV. 28	1:00
WEEK 13	@ Seattle	DEC. 5	4:15
WEEK 14	Atlanta	DEC. 12	1:00
WEEK 15	Arizona	DEC. 19	1:00
WEEK 16	@ Pittsburgh	DEC. 23	8:20
WEEK 17	@ Atlanta	JAN. 2	1:00

W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

likely starters now, adding to the unknowns in the Panthers' lineup. Leonard looks like a solid run-stopper, but their situation is so dire that taking a flier on former Colts tackle Ed Johnson was viewed as an upgrade. **GRADE: C-**

Linebackers ▸▸ This is where the good news starts for the Panthers' defense.

Middle linebacker Jon Beason is smart and intense and steps alone into the leadership void created by the Panthers' offseason purge. A sideline-to-sideline runner, Beason will have to overcome the loss of his trusted bodyguards up front to keep more hands off him this year.

On the weak side, Thomas Davis was delivering a Pro Bowl campaign last year before tearing his ACL midseason. He benefited from the Tampa 2 style of Meeks, which funneled plays his way. Because of his speed before the injury, Davis was able to capitalize on the shift more than any player.

There will be competition for the other starting spot, as James Anderson and Dan Connor will take over for released veteran Na'il Diggs. While Diggs did nothing flashy, he did everything well, and leaves considerable shoes to fill for either of the kids. Whoever loses the competition will back up at all three spots, though fourth-round pick Eric Norwood has a chance to contribute this year because of his ability to get to the quarterback. **GRADE: B+**

Secondary ▸▸ The Tampa 2 style places less emphasis on pure cover ability, and

OFFSEASON MOVES

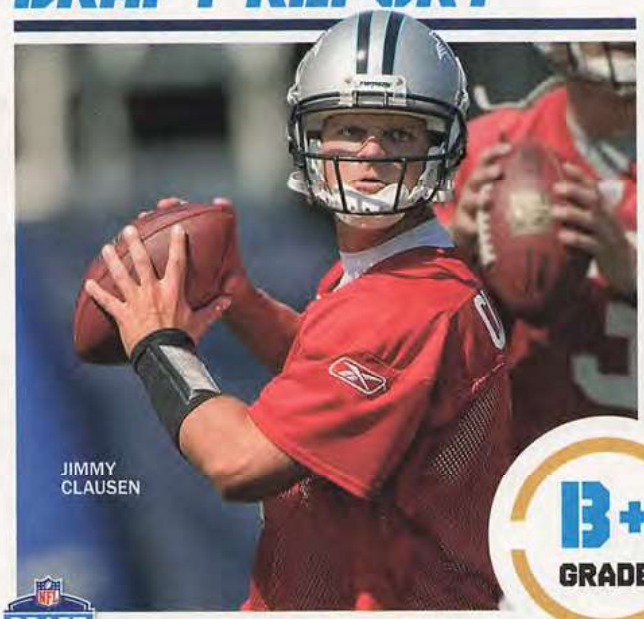
ADDITIONS

DT Ed Johnson *(FA/Colts)*, **WR Wallace Wright** *(FA/Jets)*, **CB Marcus Hudson** *(FA/49ers)*, **S Aaron Francisco** *(FA/Colts)*, **LB Jamar Williams** *(trade/Chicago)*, **RB Josh Vaughan** *(FA/Jaguars)*

SUBTRACTIONS

DE Julius Peppers *(FA/Bears)*, **QB Jake Delhomme** *(FA/Browns)*, **DT Damione Lewis** *(FA/Patriots)*, **QB A.J. Feeley** *(FA/Rams)*, **QB Josh McCown** *(FA)*, **WR Muhsin Muhammad** *(FA)*, **CB Dante Wesley** *(FA/Lions)*, **K Rhys Lloyd** *(FA/Vikings)*, **S Quinton Teal** *(FA/Seahawks)*, **DT Ma'ake Kemoeatu** *(FA/Redskins)*, **LB Na'il Diggs** *(FA/Rams)*, **LB Landon Johnson** *(FA/Lions)*, **FB Brad Hoover** *(FA)*, **S Chris Harris** *(trade/Bears)*, **G Keydrick Vincent** *(FA)*

DRAFT REPORT



JIMMY CLAUSEN

B+ GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
2	16	Jimmy Clausen	QB	6-3	222	Notre Dame
3	14	Brandon LaFell	WR	6-3	211	LSU
3	25	Armanti Edwards	WR	5-11	185	Appalachian State
4	26	Eric Norwood	LB	6-1	242	South Carolina
6	6	Greg Hardy	DE	6-4	281	Ole Miss
6	29	David Gettis	WR	6-3	217	Baylor
6	33	Jordan Pugh	S	5-11	196	Texas A&M
6	35	Tony Pike	QB	6-6	223	Cincinnati
7	16	R.J. Stanford	CB	5-10	183	Utah
7	42	Robert McClain	CB	5-10	195	Connecticut

Even though Matt Moore is the Panthers' projected starter at quarterback, they grabbed as much depth as possible at the position. Without a first-round pick, the Panthers began with **Jimmy Clausen** in the second round. He has the tools to be a starter, though his maturity and arm strength are concerns. In the sixth round, Carolina hit a home run by getting **Tony Pike**, who fell because of his injury history. Carolina also grabbed quarterback **Armanti Edwards** in the third round. The local talent from Appalachian State will be used in Wildcat formations and contribute as a slot receiver and return man.

With **Brandon LaFell**, the Panthers may have found their complement to Steve Smith. LaFell is a fluid athlete with the ability to catch passes in traffic. **Eric Norwood** played defensive end in college but has some experience at outside linebacker, which is likely his new home because he is productive rushing the quarterback. **Greg Hardy** had injury issues and tumbled down draft boards as a result. If he returns to form, he'll be a promising pass-rushing end.

BOB LEVERONE / SN

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
14 Cantwell, Hunter	QB	6-4	236	12/30/1985	1	Louisville
3 Moore, Matt	QB	6-3	202	08/09/1984	4	Oregon State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
73 Bernadeau, Mackenzy	G	6-4	308	01/03/1986	3	Bentley College
71 Davis, C.J.	G	6-3	310	02/02/1987	1	Pittsburgh
69 Gross, Jordan	T	6-4	305	07/20/1980	8	Utah
44 Jansen, J.J.	C	6-2	256	01/20/1986	2	Notre Dame
63 Justice, Steve	C	6-3	293	05/26/1984	2	Wake Forest
67 Kalil, Ryan	C	6-2	295	03/29/1985	4	USC
79 Otah, Jeff	T	6-6	330	06/17/1986	3	Pittsburgh
64 Petitti, Rob	T	6-6	327	05/21/1982	5	Pittsburgh
72 Robinson, Duke	G	6-5	330	10/10/1986	2	Oklahoma
74 Schwartz, Geoff	T	6-6	331	07/11/1986	2	Oregon
70 Wharton, Travelle	G	6-4	312	05/19/1981	7	South Carolina
65 Williams, Garry	T	6-3	300	08/20/1986	2	Kentucky

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
42 Fiammetta, Tony	RB	6-0	242	08/22/1986	2	Syracuse
33 Goodson, Mike	RB	6-0	212	05/23/1987	2	Texas A&M
28 Stewart, Jonathan	RB	5-10	235	03/21/1987	3	Oregon
22 Sutton, Tyrell	RB	5-8	213	12/19/1986	2	Northwestern
40 Yaughan, Josh	RB	6-0	232	12/03/1986	1	Richmond
34 Williams, DeAngelo	RB	5-9	217	04/25/1983	5	Memphis

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
82 Barnidge, Gary	TE	6-5	247	09/22/1985	3	Louisville
19 Jackson, Dexter	WR	5-9	182	08/05/1986	2	Appalachian State
80 Jarrett, Dwayne	WR	6-4	219	09/11/1986	4	USC
47 King, Jeff	TE	6-3	260	02/19/1983	5	Virginia Tech
83 Martin, Charly	WR	6-1	212	03/20/1984	2	West Texas A&M
81 Moore, Kenneth	WR	5-11	195	02/19/1985	3	Wake Forest
88 Rosario, Dante	TE	6-4	250	10/25/1984	4	Oregon
89 Smith, Steve	WR	5-9	185	05/12/1979	10	Utah
15 Wright, Wallace	WR	6-1	197	02/01/1984	4	North Carolina

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
96 Brayton, Tyler	DE	6-6	280	11/20/1979	8	Colorado
91 Brown, Everette	DE	6-1	256	08/07/1987	2	Florida State
98 Hayden, Nick	DT	6-4	292	02/04/1986	2	Wisconsin
60 Irvin, Corvey	DT	6-4	286	05/03/1985	1	Georgia
95 Johnson, Charles	DE	6-2	275	07/10/1986	4	Georgia
92 Johnson, Ed	DT	6-2	296	12/18/1983	4	Penn State
61 Landri, Derek	DT	6-2	282	09/21/1983	4	Notre Dame
94 Leonard, Louis	DT	6-4	325	07/16/1984	4	Fresno State
66 Moore, Eric	DE	6-4	268	02/28/1981	5	Florida State
97 Taylor, Hilee	DE	6-2	250	07/18/1986	3	North Carolina
93 Tyler, Tank	DT	6-2	306	02/14/1985	4	N.C. State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Francisco, Aaron	S	6-2	207	07/05/1983	6	Brigham Young
20 Gamble, Chris	CB	6-1	200	03/11/1983	7	Ohio State
30 Godfrey, Charles	S	5-11	205	11/15/1985	3	Iowa
23 Hudson, Marcus	S	6-2	200	11/15/1982	5	N.C. State
31 Marshall, Richard	CB	5-11	189	12/12/1984	5	Fresno State
23 Martin, Sherrod	S	6-1	198	10/12/1984	2	Troy
41 Munnerlyn, Captain	CB	5-8	186	04/10/1988	2	South Carolina
24 Walker, Marcus	CB	5-10	197	05/23/1986	1	Oklahoma
27 Wilson, C.J.	CB	6-1	195	04/02/1985	4	Baylor
36 Witherspoon, Brian	CB	5-10	175	06/05/1985	3	Stillman

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Anderson, James	LB	6-2	235	09/26/1983	5	Virginia Tech
52 Beason, Jon	LB	6-0	237	01/14/1985	4	Miami (FL)
55 Connor, Dan	LB	6-2	231	11/02/1985	3	Penn State
56 Culberson, Quinton	LB	6-1	236	10/21/1985	4	Mississippi State
58 Davis, Thomas	LB	6-0	240	03/22/1983	6	Georgia
54 Ivy, Mortty	LB	6-2	236	04/26/1986	1	West Virginia
57 Senn, Jordan	LB	5-11	224	06/11/1984	3	Portland State
48 Warren, Brett	LB	6-1	223	03/07/1985	1	Virginia Tech
53 Williams, Jamar	LB	6-0	237	06/14/1984	5	Arizona State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Baker, Jason	P	6-2	205	05/17/1978	10	Iowa
5 Carter, Todd	K	6-1	190	06/07/1986	0	Grand Valley State
4 Kasay, John	K	5-10	210	10/27/1969	20	Georgia

» JOHN FOX, *Head coach*
Jeff Davidson, offensive coordinator; **Ron Meeks,** defensive coordinator; **Jeff Rodgers,** special teams coordinator; **Dave Magazu,** offensive line; **Jim Skipper,** assistant head coach/running backs; **Geep Chryst,** offensive quality control/tight ends; **Sam Mills III,** defensive quality control; **Tyke Tolbert,** wide receivers; **Rip Scherer,** quarterbacks; **Mike Gillhamer,** secondary; **Ron Milus,** secondary; **Sam Garnes,** special teams assistant; **Richard Smith,** linebackers; **Brian Baker,** defensive line

cornerback Chris Gamble is underrated in that regard. A pure athlete who has learned to play defense, Gamble is rarely thrown to because of uncertainty on the other side.

Richard Marshall is an aggressive player who gets himself in trouble at times, but he's a solid tackler and didn't have a horrible first season as the starter. However, he's in the final year of a contract and the Panthers need a long-term replacement. Carolina found a steal in 2009 seventh-rounder Captain Munnerlyn, who won the nickel job in training camp. He makes up for his lack of size by playing a physical style, and the team has an acceptable dime corner in C.J. Wilson.

The Panthers traded strong safety Chris Harris because he had become a liability in pass coverage. They have a pair of young safeties in Charles Godfrey and Sherrod Martin, who could play either spot. **GRADE: C+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Panthers found new special teams coaches this offseason after leaky coverage units led to generous field position for opponents. They also gave new special teams coordinator Jeff Rodgers some parts to work with—something the fired Danny Crossman rarely enjoyed.

By signing players such as Wallace Wright, Marcus Hudson and Aaron Francisco, the Panthers gave themselves some legitimate special teams players to go with late-season pickups Jordan Senn and Quinton Culberson.

Kicker John Kasay is steady on field goals, but his age has left the team needing to carry a kickoff specialist, while punter Jason Baker and long snapper J.J. Jansen are solid at their jobs. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

It's hard to get a feel for the Panthers' outlook because they're so different from a year ago. They tried to keep a core together, and when it failed to produce last year, they blew it up, using the uncapped year as a chance to dump bad contracts. Now they're going with their own draft picks, hoping those players deliver on potential.

The reliance on young talent gives this team an aggressive, energetic edge, but it's hard to know whether that's going to be enough to make up for the tangible lack of sacks, receiving touchdowns or experience at quarterback.

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JOHN FOX

Given an opportunity to take a chance, Fox will almost always pass. Not a big believer in going for fourth downs, Fox isn't even crazy about throwing on third-and-long, leading to the kind of draw plays that drive local fans nuts but protect his young team.

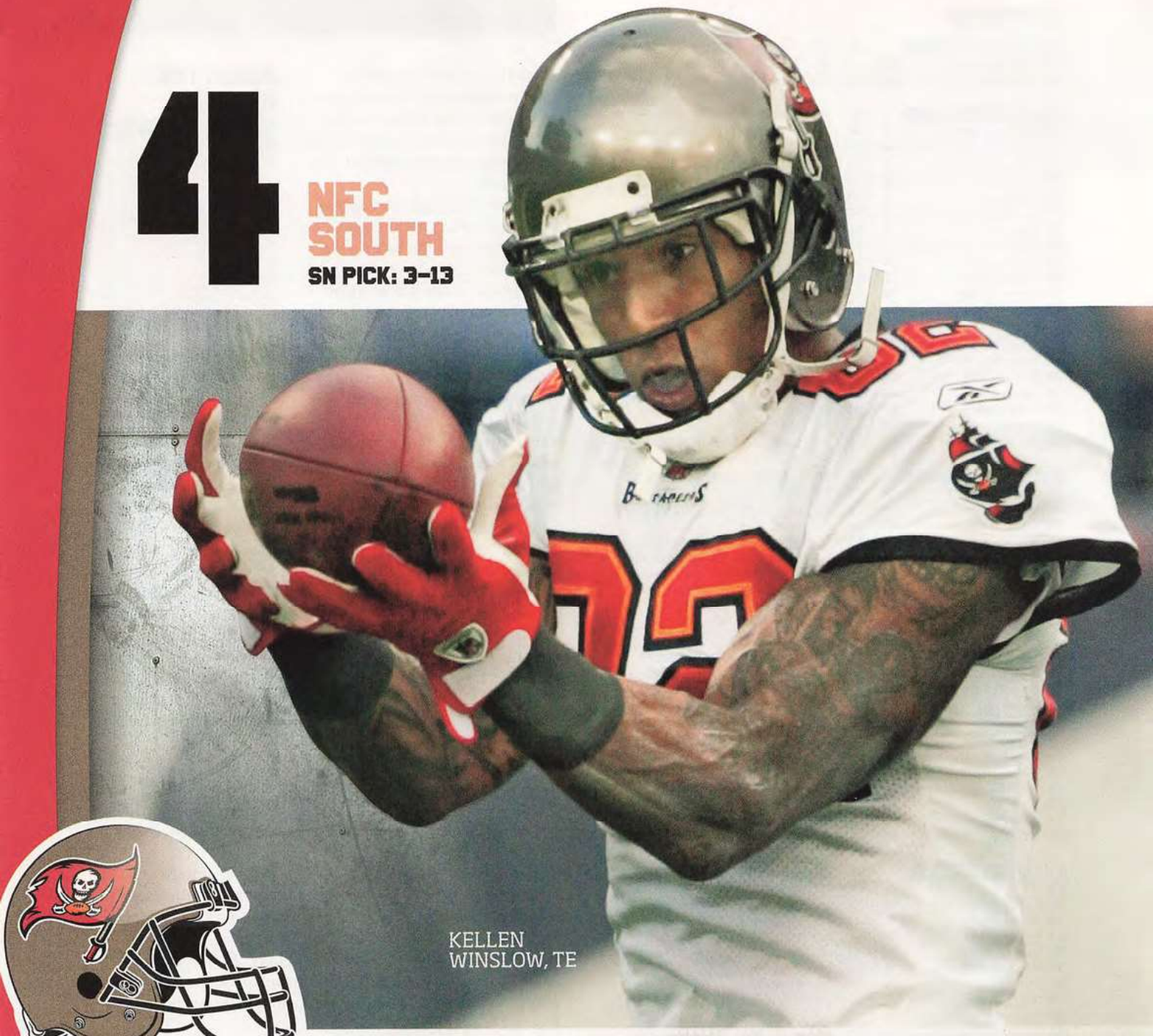
He's John Birch-conservative, and while that's not always popular with fans, he has created teams that always contend—even when they lack top-end talent, which is the case this year.

81
FINAL GRADE

4

NFC SOUTH

SN PICK: 3-13



KELLEN WINSLOW, TE

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Solid draft should make rebuilding Bucs better

By Roy Cummings, *Tampa Tribune*

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are coming off a 3-13 season and still in the middle phases of a major rebuilding project. Their goals are pretty modest this season.

The Bucs' objective is to improve on last year's disturbing finish, and there's reason to believe they can do it.

Unlike last fall, when then-rookie head coach Raheem Morris wasn't sure what kind of offense or defense his team was going to run, the Bucs come into this season with an identity established on both sides of the ball.

This is a team that's going to pound the ball with its running game on offense and hope to create opportunities downfield for second-year quarterback Josh Freeman to make use of his strong arm.

On defense, Tampa Bay is going to play a hybrid scheme, one that is based on Tampa 2 principles but includes more blitzing and coverages than you would find in a true cover 2 system.

The Bucs are going to do all of that, though, with a younger lineup than they fielded in 2010. So expect some growing pains. If all goes as planned, however, they'll make a little progress, too.

OFFENSE

Freeman is the centerpiece of the offense, but the Bucs won't make him the focal point of their attack. They want to run the ball first and then lean on Freeman's strong arm to hit on big plays downfield. The hope is that by serving up a steady diet of Cadillac Williams, Derrick Ward and Earnest Graham, the Bucs can lure an eighth or maybe even ninth defender into the box and create the opportunity for Freeman to throw deep to a receiver.

The new wizard behind the curtain is coordinator Greg Olson, who isn't really new at all. He spent all of 2009 running the Bucs' offense after Jeff Jagodzinski was fired 10 days prior to the start of the season. Because he got such a late start though, Olson never got to implement his own scheme. Now that he has his own game plan in place, look for Tampa Bay to lean on a power rushing attack as well as Freeman's big arm.

Quarterbacks The Bucs planned for Freeman to spend the entire 2009 season watching and learning from the sidelines. It didn't work out that way, and in retrospect, the Bucs are glad it didn't.

Freeman is Tampa Bay's QB of the future and took some big steps forward during his nine weeks at the helm. He remains a work-in-progress, however, and there are several areas of his game that need to be refined, including his ability to look off receivers and not telegraph his throws.

Freeman wasn't the only young Bucs quarterback to get valuable game-day reps last year. Third-year pro Josh Johnson, after forcing his way back onto the roster during training camp, stepped up for a few games.

GRADE: C

Running backs Tampa Bay's rushing attack has plenty of sturdy legs to support it, including the two that belong to Williams, whose triumphant return last year from a second patellar tendon surgery was nothing short of inspirational.

Though he was ticketed for a reserve role behind power backs Ward and Graham last year, Williams evolved into the team's lead ballcarrier. He had little trouble justifying the promotion, producing 1,040 all-purpose yards.

If he continues to stay healthy, Williams could reach the 1,000-yard rushing plateau for the first time since his sensational rookie

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

SAMMIE STROUGHTER WR

The wideout proved last year that he's more than a seventh-round talent. A reliable route runner and pass catcher, he could become a go-to guy for quarterback Josh Freeman.

CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

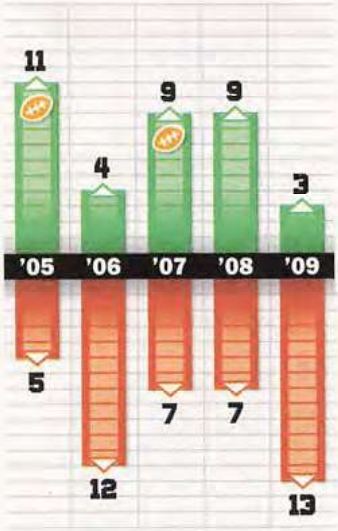
	OFFENSE
QB	Josh Freeman Josh Johnson
FB	B.J. Askew Chris Pressley
RB	Cadillac Williams Derrick Ward
LT	Donald Penn Xavier Fulton
LG	Jeremy Zuttah Arron Sears
C	Jeff Faine Jonathan Compas
RG	Davin Joseph Shawn Murphy
RT	Jeremy Trueblood Demar Dotson
TE	Kellen Winslow Jerramy Stevens
WR	Arrelious Benn Sammie Stroughter
WR	Michael Clayton Mike Williams
	DEFENSE
DE	Kyle Moore Tim Crowder
DT	Brian Price Roy Miller
DT	Gerald McCoy Chris Hovan
DE	Stylez G. White Tim Crowder
SLB	Quincy Black Angelo Crowell
MLB	Barrett Ruud Rod Wilson
WLB	Geno Hayes Adam Hayward
LCB	Aqib Talib E.J. Biggers
SS	Sean Jones Sabby Piscitelli
FS	Tanard Jackson Sabby Piscitelli
RCB	Ronde Barber Myron Lewis
	SPECIALISTS
K	Connor Barth
P	Brent Bowden
KR	Clifton Smith
PR	Clifton Smith
LS	Andrew Economos

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 3-13 HOME: 1-7

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/buccaneers
www.buccaneers.com

STADIUM
Raymond James Stadium
Capacity: 65,657 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 813-879-2827
Training Camp: One Buc Place, Tampa; 813-870-2700

5-YEAR RECORD: 36–44



FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

In 2009, Cadillac Williams had his best season since his rookie year (2005) and played in all 16 games for the first time in his career. But he'll still have to share time with Derrick Ward.

BUY
Kellen Winslow
TE

SELL
Derrick Ward
RB

SLEEPER
Arrelious Benn
WR

season in 2005. The team's desire, though, is to use Williams, Ward and Graham interchangeably, and that could keep all three from reaching any lofty statistical heights.

A second-year player out of Wisconsin, fullback Chris Pressley is a barreling throwback of a lead blocker. **GRADE: B**

Receivers The Bucs raised a lot of eyebrows when they first traded for and then extended the contract of tight end Kellen Winslow last year. As a return favor, Winslow elevated his game and raised a lot of eyebrows himself.

The 26-year-old brushed off the incredible nuisance of having to work in two different systems and for three different quarterbacks to lead the Bucs with 77 receptions for 884 yards and five TDs.

The plan this season is to make Winslow the focal point of the air attack, but that could all change if someone from the receiving corps can step up. And there's hope that rookies Arrelious Benn and Mike Williams can do just that.

The Bucs spent a second-round pick on Benn, an Illinois product who has ideal size, speed and strength but needs to improve his pass-catching mechanics and route running. In the fourth round, the team drafted Williams, who might have gone a couple rounds earlier had he not raised a red flag by quitting on his Syracuse team with four games to play last November.

Though they need some work, Benn and Williams are good enough to push the likes of Michael Clayton, Maurice Stovall and Reggie Brown, all of whom have proved to be disappointments over the last few years. **GRADE: C-**

Offensive line Nothing disappointed the Buccaneers more during their dismal 2009 season than the play of their offensive line. This was supposed to have been the team's greatest strength, but it proved to be its greatest weakness.

Though they won't abandon it entirely, the Bucs will lean less on the zone-blocking scheme that accentuated their attack a year ago and will go back to using more of a man-blocking scheme.

The players here are all big, athletic and mean, especially in the middle, where Jeff Faine, the highest-paid center in the game, has no trouble backing up the trash talk he dishes out on every down.

Right guard Davin Joseph, a 2008 Pro Bowl alternate, is a smart player who can flatten linemen in the run game and plays with great efficiency in pass protection. Left guard Jeremy Zuttah isn't in Joseph's class and was out of place at left guard last year, but with only Xavier Fulton to push him, the Bucs may have no choice but to keep the former Rutgers standout in place.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	287.5	28
RUSHING	101.7	23
PASSING	185.8	24
SCORING	244	30
PUNT RETURNS	11.6	4
KICK RETURNS	26.3	1
RED ZONE TD %	51.6	16
TOTAL DEFENSE	365.6	27
AGAINST RUSH	158.2	32
AGAINST PASS	207.4	10
POINTS ALLOWED	400	27
INTERCEPTIONS	19	9t
SACKS	28	26t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-5	22

BUCCANEERS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1	**Warren Sapp** *(1995-2003)*	**77.0**
2	**Simeon Rice** *(2001-06)*	**69.5**
3	**Chidi Ahanotu** *(1993-2004)*	**34.5**

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Buccaneers)*

"Offensively, they're nothing like they were under (former coach Jon) Gruden. He did the absolute most he could with what he had to work with.

Preparing to face his offenses was always a challenge. That doesn't mean they won't improve this year, though. I think their young QB (Josh Freeman) has a lot of promise, and he showed lot of moxie bringing his team back from some deficits last year. After a game last season he actually came up to introduce himself and said he 'grew up watching me play.' Nice gesture, but that was definitely the oldest I've ever felt. ...

"Defensively, I expect them to improve substantially. They're obviously making a concerted effort to defend the run better, taking interior (defensive) linemen early in the draft. Every linebacker loves when his team drafts big talent in front of him. This should free (Barrett) Ruud up to make even more plays, and hopefully he starts getting the credit he deserves. This guy needs to get paid at some point, for God's sake."

FRED BARNES FOR SN

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	21-34	Dallas Cowboys
09/20	L	20-33	at Buffalo Bills
09/27	L	0-24	New York Giants
10/04	L	13-16	at Washington Redskins
10/11	L	14-33	at Philadelphia Eagles
10/18	L	21-28	Carolina Panthers
10/25	L	7-35	New England Patriots
11/08	W	38-28	Green Bay Packers
11/15	L	23-25	at Miami Dolphins
11/22	L	7-38	New Orleans Saints
11/29	L	17-20	at Atlanta Falcons
12/06	L	6-16	at Carolina Panthers
12/13	L	3-26	New York Jets
12/20	W	24-7	at Seattle Seahawks
12/27	W	20-17	at New Orleans Saints
01/03	L	10-20	Atlanta Falcons

WON 3, LOST 13

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Williams	211	823	3.9	35	4
Ward	114	409	3.6	28	1
Freeman	30	161	5.4	20	0
Johnson	22	148	6.7	29	0
Graham	14	66	4.7	17	0
Smith	4	7	1.8	4	0
Winslow	1	7	7.0	7	0
Leftwich	6	6	1.0	4	0
Askew	1	0	0.0	0	0
Pressley	1	0	0.0	0	0
BUCCANEERS	404	1627	4.0	35	5
OPPONENTS	529	2531	4.8	45	16

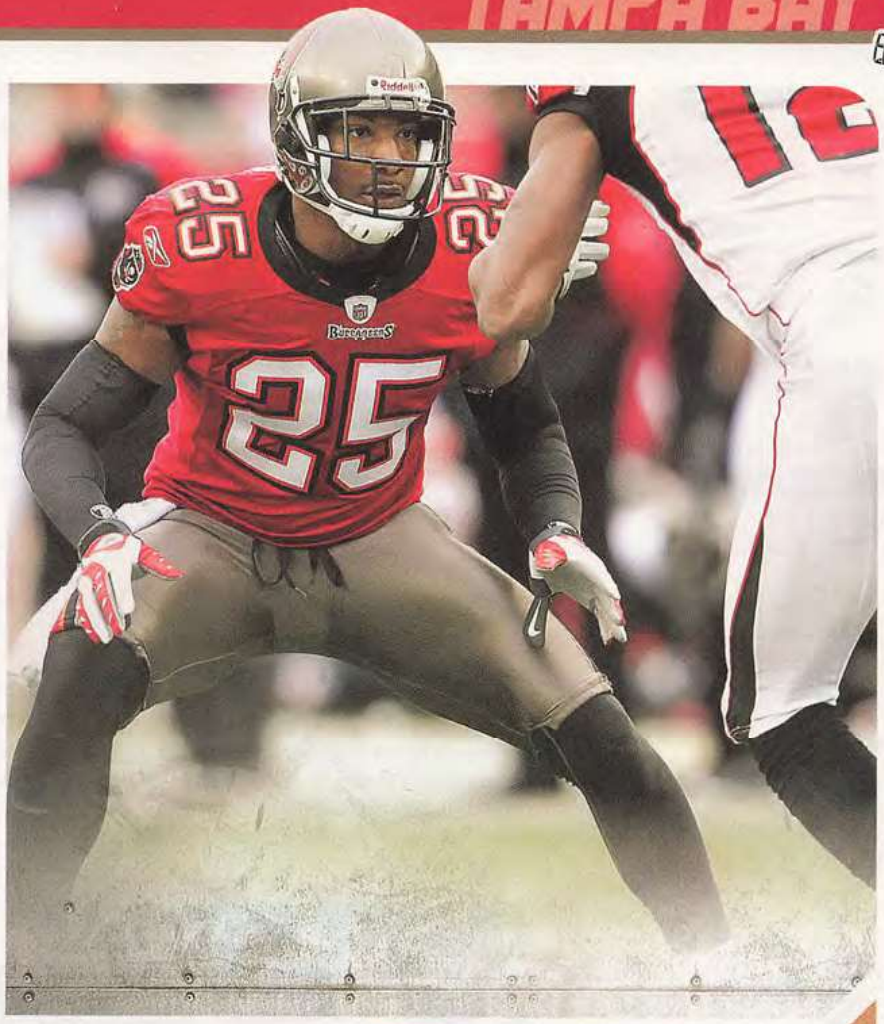
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Winslow	77	884	11.5	42	5
Bryant	39	600	15.4	42	4
Stroughter	31	334	10.8	35	1
Williams	28	217	7.8	22	3
Stovall	24	366	15.3	38	1
Ward	20	150	7.5	38	2
Clayton	16	230	14.4	47	1
Stevens	15	130	8.7	17	1
Graham	14	109	7.8	16	0
Clark	6	65	10.8	17	0
Gilmore	3	23	7.7	9	0
Smith	2	4	2.0	3	0
Askew	2	3	1.5	4	0
Penn	1	15	15.0	15	0
Pressley	1	2	2.0	2	0
BUCCANEERS	279	3134	11.2	47	18
OPPONENTS	301	3318	11.0	80	28

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Freeman	290	158	1855	10	18
J. Johnson	125	63	685	4	8
Leftwich	107	58	594	4	3
Clayton	1	0	0	0	0
D. Johnson	1	0	0	0	0
BUCCANEERS	524	279	3134	18	29
OPPONENTS	482	301	3484	28	19

SACKS BUCCANEERS 28, OPPONENTS 33

White 6.5, Wilkerson 6, Crowder 3.5, Hayes 3, Barber 2, Miller 2, Black 1.5, Sims 1, Bennett 1, Hovan 0.5

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES



THE BOOK ON ... AQIB TALIB

(how a rival sizes him up)

"I think that kid has Pro-Bowl-caliber talent. He's definitely got the size and athleticism you look for in a top corner, and he's not afraid to go after the ball and try to make plays. You have to be careful when you play aggressive like he does because you can get yourself into some trouble, but he's got the footwork and the speed to make up for a lot of his mistakes. ...

"He's a good tackler, and they're already starting to put him on the other team's top receivers. That's a tough assignment for a guy so young, because he's going to be tested and he's going to get beat, but what I like is that he never lets that get to him. When he gets beat it's almost like he's more determined the next time out to make a play himself. He can play man or zone so he's got all the tools you look for."

Donald Penn returns as the starting left tackle and is the team's top pass protector. He seldom gets exposed even against the best rush ends.

Solid and durable Jeremy Trueblood is the starter at right tackle.

GRADE: C+

DEFENSE

Morris took the defense back from deposed Jim Bates after 10 games last year, and it was the best move he made all season. Though it was viewed by many as another indication that the 33-year-old was in over his head as a head coach, the decision to abandon Bates' two-gap man-coverage scheme and return to a one-gap zone-coverage system put the defense back on the road to respectability.

Morris has developed a hybrid system designed to confuse and pressure the quarterback, and he'll do it by dialing up more blitzes than are usually seen in a cover 2 scheme.

Defensive line ▸▸ There is a soft underbelly to the Bucs' defense, and it lies on the line. A big culprit in

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Cleveland
SEPT. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 2 @ Carolina
SEPT. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 3 Pittsburgh
SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 4 OPEN DATE

WEEK 5 @ Cincinnati
OCT. 10 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 6 New Orleans
OCT. 17 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 7 St. Louis
OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 8 @ Arizona
OCT. 31 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 9 @ Atlanta
NOV. 7 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 10 Carolina
NOV. 14 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 11 @ San Francisco
NOV. 21 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 12 @ Baltimore
NOV. 28 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 13 Atlanta
DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 14 @ Washington
DEC. 12 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 15 Detroit
DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 16 Seattle
DEC. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 17 @ New Orleans
JAN. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

the team's demise two years ago, this unit never recovered in 2009. The prospects for 2010 are a little better with the addition of first-round draft pick Gerald McCoy and second-rounder Brian Price, but this unit needs more than just two potentially dominant tackles.

The best player there may be right end Stylez G. White. The 31-year-old Arena League refugee replaced Gaines Adams as the starter midway through last season and finished the year with 6.5 sacks.

The other player to watch is Tim Crowder, a former second-round pick of the Broncos who is best suited to play in the one-gap system the Bucs have re-instituted this year.

Another young player who could work his way into the line rotation this season is Kyle Moore, a second-year USC product who could serve as either a spare left end or a situational tackle. **GRADE: D**

Linebackers ▸▸ Barrett Ruud's name is seldom mentioned in a discussion about the NFL's top middle linebackers, but when the stats come in, Ruud's name is there with the best of them. A year ago, the middle linebacker had the most combined tackles (142) of anyone in the NFL at that position.

The team won't ask for more out of Ruud, but weakside linebacker Geno Hayes needs to play with more consistency. Hayes proved last season he can be a dynamic playmaker when he's on his game.

Strongside linebacker Quincy Black is a lot like Hayes. He's not big and was lost in the two-gap scheme, but the switch back to the one-gap allowed him to freelance more and take advantage of his athleticism.

If Hayes and Black continue to progress,

OFFSEASON MOVES

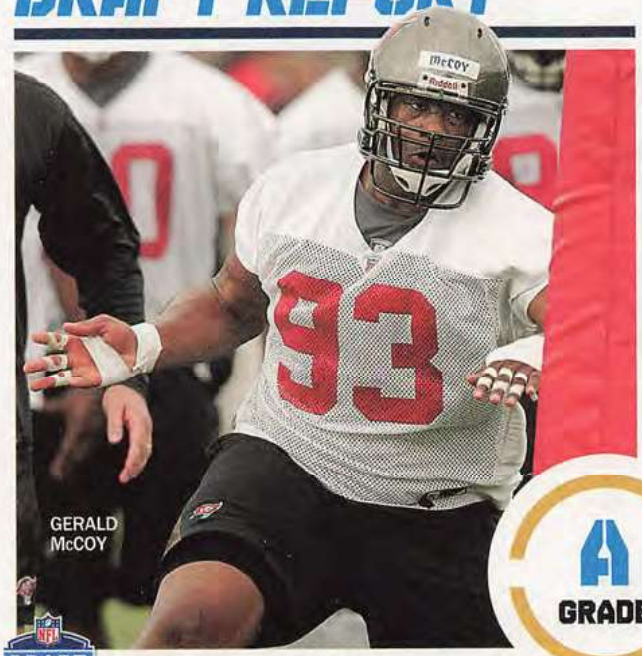
ADDITIONS

S Sean Jones *(FA/Eagles)*, **WR Reggie Brown** *(trade/Eagles)*

SUBTRACTIONS

WR Antonio Bryant *(FA/Bengals)*, **S Will Allen** *(FA/Steelers)*, **QB Byron Leftwich** *(trade/Steelers)*, **P Dirk Johnson** *(FA)*, **P Josh Bidwell** *(FA/Redskins)*

DRAFT REPORT



▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	3	Gerald McCoy	DT	6-4	295	Oklahoma
2	3	Brian Price	DT	6-1	303	UCLA
2	7	Arrelious Benn	WR	6-1	219	Illinois
3	3	Myron Lewis	S	6-2	203	Vanderbilt
4	3	Mike Williams	WR	6-2	221	Syracuse
6	3	Brent Bowden	P	6-3	202	Virginia Tech
7	3	Cody Grimm	S	5-11	203	Virginia Tech
7	10	Dekoda Watson	LB	6-2	226	Florida State
7	46	Erik Lorig	DE	6-4	281	Stanford

Not only did the Buccaneers first grab defensive tackle **Gerald McCoy**, who fits their scheme perfectly, but they found defensive tackle **Brian Price** in the second round. McCoy is a dominant interior player and, combined with Price, should form a potent defensive line for years to come.

After letting Antonio Bryant leave as a free agent, the Bucs needed to address the vacancy at wide receiver, which they did with **Arrelious Benn** and **Mike Williams**. The duo could become Josh Freeman's starting receivers in a couple of seasons. Benn is quick and athletic, while Williams is a big target who Freeman will easily find downfield.

Cornerback **Myron Lewis** shined at Vanderbilt in coverage but slid on draft day because of one bad workout. **Cody Grimm** and **Dekoda Watson** will contribute in 2010. Grimm is a former safety who has great size for a linebacker, and Watson has excellent physical talent.

ICON SMI / NEWSCOM

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
12 Carpenter, Rudy	QB	6-2	212	04/15/1986	2	Arizona State
5 Freeman, Josh	QB	6-6	248	01/13/1988	2	Kansas State
11 Johnson, Josh	QB	6-3	205	05/15/1986	3	San Diego

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
61 Compas, Jonathan	G	6-3	300	01/09/1986	2	UC Davis
62 Dile, Marc	T	6-4	275	05/05/1986	1	South Florida
69 Dotson, Demar	T	6-9	315	10/11/1985	2	Southern Miss
48 Economos, Andrew	C	6-1	250	06/24/1982	5	Georgia Tech
52 Faine, Jeff	C	6-3	291	04/06/1981	8	Notre Dame
68 Fulton, Xavier	T	6-5	301	04/18/1986	1	Illinois
75 Joseph, Davin	G	6-3	313	11/22/1983	5	Oklahoma
77 Lee, James	T	6-4	305	08/17/1985	3	South Carolina State
70 Penn, Donald	T	6-5	305	04/27/1983	5	Utah State
65 Trueblood, Jeremy	T	6-8	320	05/10/1983	5	Boston College
76 Zuttah, Jeremy	G	6-4	308	06/01/1986	3	Rutgers

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Graham, Earnest	RB	5-9	225	01/15/1980	7	Florida
32 Huggins, Kareem	RB	5-9	198	05/24/1986	1	Hofstra
45 Pressley, Chris	RB	6-1	259	08/08/1986	2	Wisconsin
22 Smith, Clifton	RB	5-9	190	07/04/1985	3	Fresno State
28 Ward, Derrick	RB	5-11	228	08/30/1980	7	Ottawa
24 Williams, Cadillac	RB	5-11	217	04/21/1982	6	Auburn

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
16 Bradley, Mark	WR	6-1	201	01/29/1982	6	Oklahoma
86 Brown, Reggie	WR	6-1	197	01/13/1981	6	Georgia
80 Clayton, Michael	WR	6-4	215	10/13/1982	7	LSU
88 Gilmore, John	TE	6-5	257	09/21/1979	9	Penn State
83 Nunn, Terrence	WR	6-0	190	07/25/1986	2	Nebraska
46 Purvis, Ryan	TE	6-4	260	05/08/1986	1	Boston College
81 Spurlock, Micheal	WR	5-11	214	01/31/1983	3	Ole Miss
86 Stevens, Jerramy	TE	6-7	260	11/13/1979	9	Washington
85 Stovall, Maurice	WR	6-5	220	02/21/1985	5	Notre Dame
18 Stroughter, Sammie	WR	5-10	189	01/03/1986	2	Oregon State
19 Urrutia, Mario	WR	6-6	232	01/18/1986	2	Louisville
82 Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-4	240	07/21/1983	7	Miami (FL)

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
71 Bennett, Michael	DE	6-4	274	11/13/1985	2	Texas A&M
96 Crowder, Tim	DE	6-4	275	06/30/1985	4	Texas
79 Evans, Maurice	DE	6-2	264	08/14/1988	1	Penn State
93 Miller, Roy	DT	6-1	310	07/09/1987	2	Texas
92 Moore, Dre	DT	6-4	305	06/09/1985	2	Maryland
94 Moore, Kyle	DE	6-5	272	10/25/1986	2	USC
98 Sims, Ryan	DT	6-4	315	05/04/1980	9	North Carolina
91 White, Stylez G	DE	6-3	270	07/25/1979	4	Minnesota

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
38 Anderson, Brandon	CB	5-11	175	12/10/1985	1	Akron
20 Barber, Ronde	CB	5-10	184	04/07/1975	14	Virginia
31 Biggers, E.J.	CB	6-0	180	06/13/1987	1	Western Michigan
39 Cook, Emanuel	S	5-10	210	01/20/1988	1	South Carolina
43 Hall, De'von	S	6-3	215	09/08/1987	2	Utah State
36 Jackson, Tanard	S	6-0	200	07/21/1985	4	Syracuse
26 Jones, Sean	S	6-1	220	03/02/1982	7	Georgia
41 Lynch, Corey	S	6-0	205	05/07/1985	3	Appalachian State
33 Mack, Elbert	CB	5-10	175	07/14/1986	3	Troy
21 Piscitelli, Sabby	S	6-3	224	08/24/1983	4	Oregon State
29 Roberson, Derrick	CB	5-10	185	03/12/1985	3	Rutgers
25 Talib, Aqib	CB	6-1	205	02/13/1986	3	Kansas
30 Woodson, Stoney	CB	5-11	197	10/11/1985	1	South Carolina

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Alston, Jon	LB	6-0	225	06/04/1983	5	Stanford
58 Black, Quincy	LB	6-2	227	02/28/1984	4	New Mexico
59 Crowell, Angelo	LB	6-1	246	08/16/1981	7	Virginia
54 Hayes, Geno	LB	6-1	226	08/10/1987	3	Florida State
57 Hayward, Adam	LB	6-1	240	06/23/1984	4	Portland State
53 Koutouvides, Niko	LB	6-2	238	03/25/1981	7	Purdue
49 Robinson, Lee	LB	6-3	243	04/27/1987	1	Alcorn State
51 Ruud, Barrett	LB	6-2	241	05/20/1983	6	Nebraska

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Barth, Connor	K	5-11	193	04/11/1986	3	North Carolina
2 Paulescu, Sam	P	6-0	189	04/18/1984	4	Oregon State

RAHEEM MORRIS, *Head coach*
Greg Olson, offensive coordinator; **Richard Bisaccia,** associate head coach/special teams coordinator; **Pete Mangurian,** offensive line; **Steve Logan,** running backs; **Alfredo Robers,** tight ends; **Eric Yarber,** wide receivers; **Tim Berbenich,** wide receivers assistant; **Alex Van Pelt,** quarterbacks; **Jimmy Lake,** secondary; **Dwayne Stukes,** secondary assistant; **Joe Baker,** linebackers; **Todd Wash,** defensive line; **Chris Mosley,** defensive assistant coach

the Bucs will have one of the more talented and effective, albeit unheralded, linebacking corps in the conference. **GRADE: B**

Secondary The Bucs have always had a formidable secondary, and this season should be no different. The team has three solid starters in corners Aqib Talib and Ronde Barber and safety Tanard Jackson, and the presence of Sean Jones should result in better production from the other safety spot.

Sabby Piscitelli, the starting safety a year ago, proved he wasn't ready for the responsibility. With Jones around to push him, Piscitelli will have to improve his coverage and tackling or face the prospect of returning to the bench.

Nickel corner Elbert Mack struggled like Piscitelli did and will get a push this year from rookie Myron Lewis, who has good size and coverage skills and is a sure tackler.

Barber is 35 and entering the last year of his contract. He proved last year he can play effectively in any scheme. Talib and Jackson combined for 10 picks and two touchdowns, both of which were scored by Jackson. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

If the Bucs worried their opponents last year, it was in their return game. Clifton Smith, Stroughter and Micheal Spurlock all proved to be effective return men, as the Bucs ranked second in the league in kick return average and fourth in punt return average.

The Bucs went through three kickers last year before settling on Connor Barth, but he wasn't as consistent as the team needed.

The situation at punter wasn't much different, but the team is hoping sixth-round draft choice Brent Bowden can stop the revolving door. Bowden can really drive the ball, but his best attribute is dropping punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

The Bucs are entering the second year of a massive rebuilding project. Some of the foundation's keystones are in place, but there's still work to be done on both sides of the ball. If the Bucs learn some new schemes, they should improve on the field and in the standings. This team is still a year or two away from being a playoff contender, but doubling last season's win total is within reach.

65
FINAL GRADE

INSIDE THE HEADSET

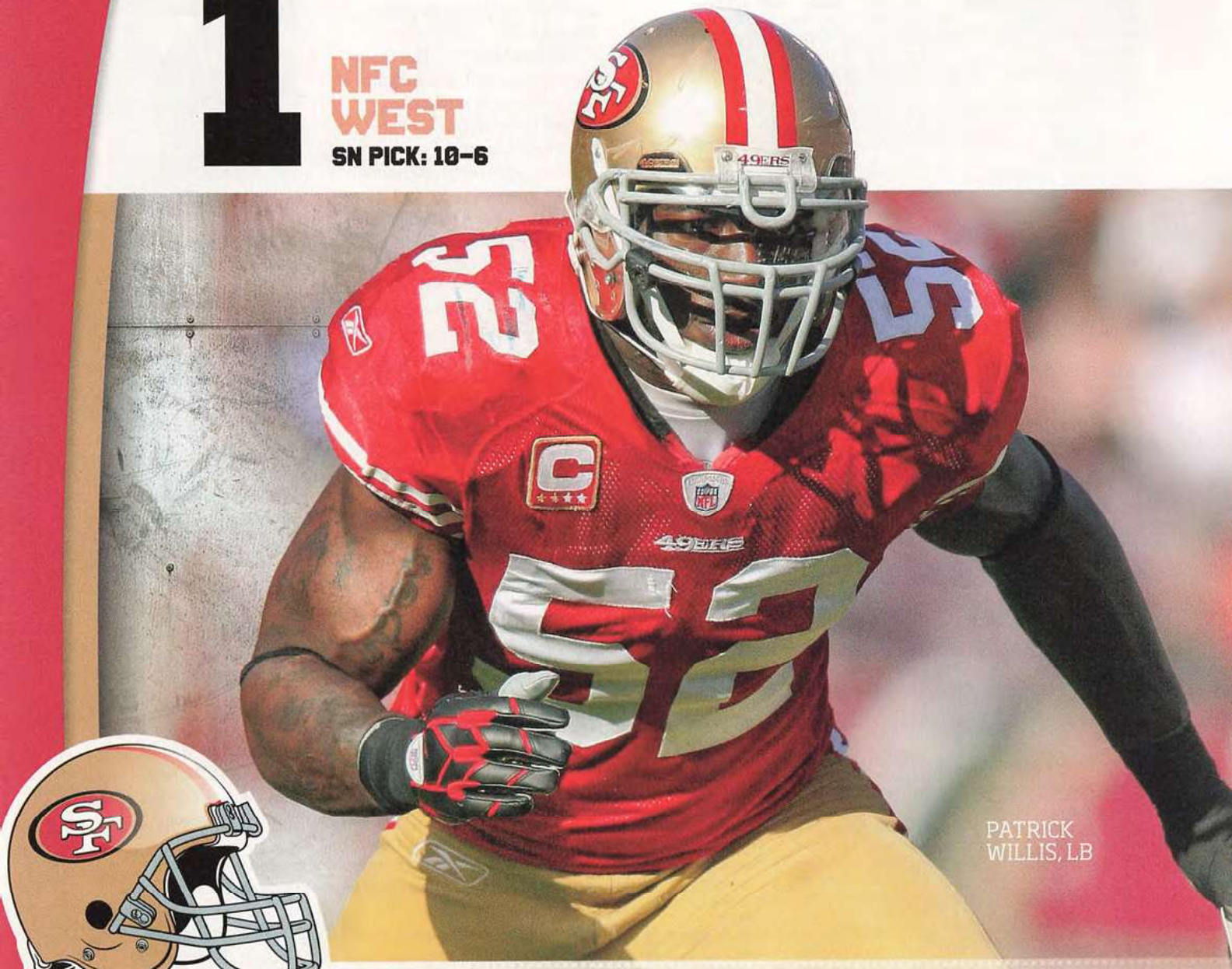
RAHEEM MORRIS

Morris is a young head coach with some old-fashioned principles. He wants to run downhill on offense and beat you up on defense. He's a gambler, too. Morris won't hesitate to dial up an all-out blitz and leave his corners exposed, and will go for it on a crucial fourth down if he believes it's his best option.

1

NFC WEST

SN PICK: 10-6



PATRICK WILLIS, LB

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

49ers hope newfound stability carries them to NFC West title

By Matt Barrows, *Sacramento Bee*

While the rest of the NFC West has undergone a sea change this offseason, the buzzword around 49ers headquarters has been continuity. For the first time in eight seasons, the team will have the same offensive coordinator and head coach two years running, and that relative stability makes San Francisco the favorite to win the division for the first time since 2002.

Whether the 49ers can accomplish that depends largely on quarterback Alex Smith and offensive coordinator Jimmy Raye. The team is banking on Smith finally breaking through in his sixth season. With Frank Gore, Vernon Davis and Michael Crabtree, Smith has the most talented supporting cast he's ever had. But there are questions whether Raye has the imagination to turn those ingredients into a playoff-caliber offense.

OFFENSE

The 49ers were a schizophrenic bunch in 2009, veering from a staid, straight-ahead running attack early in the season to one that opted for plenty of shotgun formations and a spread attack at midseason. Raye is aiming for more balance this season, but look for Gore to continue to be the so-called "bell cow." Gore and the rest of San Francisco's skill players should benefit from an improved offensive line led by new coach Mike Solari.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ Smith has been the victim of outside forces throughout his career, primarily the 49ers' revolving-door situation at offensive coordinator and a separated shoulder in 2007 that led to two surgeries. But he also has lacked the take-charge attitude his position requires. Smith will be running the same offense he ran in 2009, giving him a mastery he's never had. The question is whether that will translate into the command that's been missing since he was drafted in 2005.

Smith is smart, athletic and still young (27) for an NFL quarterback. But he is also entering the final year of his contract, and if Smith doesn't steer the team into the playoffs, this could be his final year in San Francisco.

The 49ers raised eyebrows when they signed David Carr, who, like Smith, is a former No. 1 overall pick who hasn't lived up to his draft status. Their similarities are no coincidence. The 49ers wanted a backup who, if something were to happen to Smith, could step in without the offense missing a beat.

The third quarterback, Nate Davis, is intriguing because he has an elite arm and is athletic. The 49ers plan to bring Davis along slowly, however, and his second season promises to be as limited as his rookie campaign. **GRADE: C-**

Running backs ▸▸ Gore ran for more than 1,000 yards for the fourth straight season in 2009—not bad for a tailback who had two major knee operations in college and was labeled a major injury risk in the 2005 draft.

However, he has missed multiple games in each of the last three seasons with ankle sprains. At 27, Gore is also approaching the age at which elite running backs start to slow down.

The 49ers drafted Glen Coffee in the third round last season with the expectation that he would share the workload with Gore. Coffee, however, had only 22 carries in the 13 games in which Gore was healthy. Coffee has bulked up to 220 pounds this offseason, which ought to add more power to his already violent, straight-ahead manner.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

CHILO RACHAL — **G**

Coach Mike Singletary has made Rachal his special project, and for good reason. Rachal is as physically gifted as any interior lineman in the league. If he becomes more consistent and adds more fire to his game, Rachal has a chance of becoming an elite guard.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Alex Smith David Carr
FB	Moran Norris Brit Miller
RB	Frank Gore Glen Coffee
LT	Joe Staley Barry Sims
LG	Mike Iupati David Baas
C	Eric Heitmann Cody Wallace
RG	Chilo Rachal Tony Wragge
RT	Anthony Davis Adam Snyder
TE	Vernon Davis Delanie Walker
WR	Michael Crabtree Brandon Jones
WR	Josh Morgan Jason Hill
	DEFENSE
LE	Isaac Sopoaga Kentwan Balmer
NT	Aubrayo Franklin Ricky Jean-Francois
RE	Justin Smith Ray McDonald
OLB	Parys Haralson Ahmad Brooks
ILB	Patrick Willis Matt Wilhelm
ILB	Takeo Spikes Scott McKillop
OLB	Manny Lawson Diyral Briggs
LCB	Nate Clements Tarell Brown
SS	Michael Lewis Curtis Taylor
FS	Dashon Goldson Reggie Smith
RCB	Shawntae Spencer Karl Paymah
	SPECIALISTS
K	Joe Nedney
P	Andy Lee
LS	Brian Jennings
PR	Brandon Jones
KR	Josh Morgan

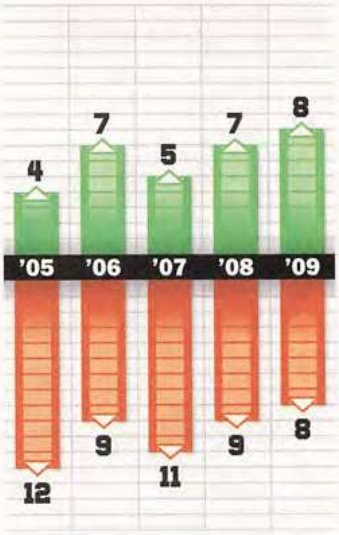
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 8-8 HOME: 6-2

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/49ers
www.sf49ers.com

STADIUM
Candlestick Park
Capacity: 70,207 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 415-GO-49ERS
Training Camp: Marie P. DeBartolo Sports Center, Santa Clara, Calif.; 408-562-4979

OPPOSITE: JOHN PYLE / CAL SPORT MEDIA

5-YEAR RECORD: 31-49



KEY PLAYOFFS | NFC TITLE | SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Alex Smith must prove he can play under center in order to build on last year's stats. Going to a spread-style offense would diminish Frank Gore's value, and the 49ers don't want to do that.

BUY
Frank Gore
RB

SELL
Ted Ginn Jr.
WR

SLEEPER
Michael Crabtree
WR

Michael Robinson has been more of a special teams ace than a running back since joining the 49ers. But he's a good receiver out of the backfield and gives the 49ers a unique weapon on third downs.

At fullback, Moran Norris will try to hold off a challenge from youngsters Brit Miller and Jehuu Caulcrick. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸▸ Michael Crabtree was a surprisingly fast starter after missing the entire offseason and the first five games of the 2009 campaign. Crabtree led all rookie wideouts with 56.8 receiving yards a game. With a full offseason, the expectations for him are high in 2010. Crabtree, however, does not have elite speed. With quick hands and long arms, he is more of a possession receiver who can make big plays by gaining yards after the catch.

The team's fastest receiver is actually a tight end. Vernon Davis is finally in an offense that highlights the tight end, and last year he tied an NFL record for his position by catching 13 touchdowns. He teams with Delanie Walker to give the 49ers perhaps the best pass-catching tight end duo in the league.

The No. 2 wide receiver, Josh Morgan, needs to take a step forward this year. Morgan is the team's strongest wideout, and is also a great leaper. But while he's shown flashes of ability, he has yet to become a consistent producer in the 49ers' offense. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸▸ No team has allowed more sacks in the last three seasons than the 49ers, who have given up 150 during that span. The running game was supposed to be a strength in 2009, but the 49ers failed there, too, finishing 27th in average yards per game. Both statistics point to problems along the offensive line. Right tackle has been a team need for two seasons, and Adam Snyder struggled mightily in 2009. First-round pick Anthony Davis will replace Snyder with hopes of different results than last year.

Guard play also has been inconsistent. Left guard David Baas was injured in training camp, and it took him until midseason to find his form. Right guard Chilo Rachal has perhaps more talent than any 49ers blocker, but he is young and immature, and he frequently incurred coach Mike Singletary's wrath in 2009. Rookie Mike Iupati, taken with the 16th pick overall, is likely to start immediately on the left side.

The good news is that Solari and assistant Ray Brown have brought a fresh attitude and a renewed focus. With Rachal, left tackle Joe Staley and steady center Eric Heitmann, the offensive line has talent. What it needs in 2010 is more smash-mouth attitude and a sense of direction. **GRADE: D**

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	290.8	27
RUSHING	100.0	25
PASSING	190.8	22
SCORING	330	18
PUNT RETURNS	4.4	32
KICK RETURNS	21.8	23
RED ZONE TD %	59.0	5
TOTAL DEFENSE	326.4	15
AGAINST RUSH	97.0	6
AGAINST PASS	229.4	21
POINTS ALLOWED	281	4
INTERCEPTIONS	18	11t
SACKS	44	3t
TURNOVER DIFF.	9	5

49ERS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Bryant Young** *(1994-2007)* — **89.5**
2. **Charles Haley** *(1986-99)* — **66.5**
3. **Dana Stubblefield** *(1993-2002)* — **46.5**

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the 49ers)

"If you're looking for an overall strength, you'd have to say it's their defense. And the thing is, they're still young. Their rush defense is particularly good. It was a real strength of theirs last year. Patrick Willis is the kind of guy who can make up for a subpar defensive line. He's that good. But you put him behind a good line like San Francisco's and he becomes even better. Justin Smith, Aubrayo Franklin, Isaac Sopoaga—all three of those guys are quality players. They're still trying out (free safety) Dashon Goldson, but it looks like he might work out for them. ...

"Offensively, I'd say their offensive line is the biggest weakness. They had a hard time establishing a strong running game last year. It hinges on Frank Gore. When Frank Gore is healthy, the offensive line looks better, the passing game looks better, everything looks better. But when Gore isn't in the lineup, everything starts to fall apart."

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	20-16	at Arizona Cardinals
09/20	W	23-10	Seattle Seahawks
09/27	L	24-27	at Minnesota Vikings
10/04	W	35-0	St. Louis Rams
10/11	L	10-45	Atlanta Falcons
10/25	L	21-24	at Houston Texans
11/01	L	14-18	at Indianapolis Colts
11/08	L	27-34	Tennessee Titans
11/12	W	10-6	Chicago Bears
11/22	L	24-30	at Green Bay Packers
11/29	W	20-3	Jacksonville Jaguars
12/06	L	17-20	at Seattle Seahawks
12/14	W	24-9	Arizona Cardinals
12/20	L	13-27	at Philadelphia Eagles
12/27	W	20-6	Detroit Lions
01/03	W	28-6	at St. Louis Rams

WON 8, LOST 8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Gore	229	1120	4.9	80	10
Coffee	83	226	2.7	17	1
Hill	8	70	8.8	22	0
Morgan	5	61	12.2	20	0
Smith	24	51	2.1	11	0
Norris	14	41	2.9	15	1
Walker	3	34	11.3	16	0
Robinson	3	2	0.7	4	0
Bruce	1	-8	-8.0	-8	0
49ERS	**371**	**1600**	**4.3**	**80**	**12**
OPPONENTS	426	1552	3.6	41	12

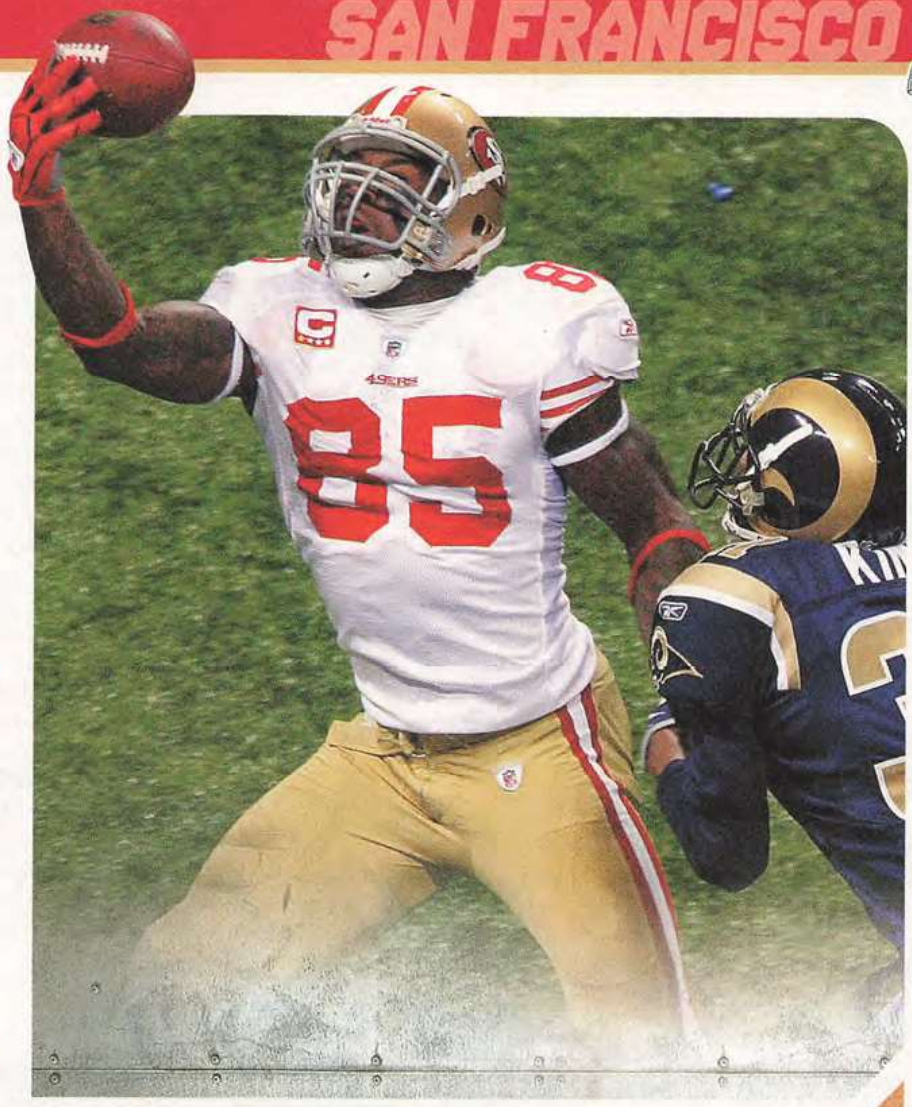
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Davis	78	965	12.4	73	13
Morgan	52	527	10.1	61	3
Gore	52	406	7.8	48	3
Crabtree	48	625	13.0	50	2
Bruce	21	264	12.6	50	0
Walker	21	233	11.1	39	0
Coffee	11	76	6.9	12	0
Hill	9	90	10.0	30	2
Norris	7	31	4.4	11	0
Robinson	6	24	4.0	8	0
Battle	5	40	8.0	12	0
Jones	1	18	18.0	18	0
Smith	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
49ERS	**312**	**3293**	**10.6**	**73**	**23**
OPPONENTS	352	3670	10.4	90	14

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Smith	372	225	2350	18	12
Hill	155	87	943	5	2
49ERS	**528**	**312**	**3293**	**23**	**14**
OPPONENTS	580	352	3963	14	18

SACKS — 49ERS 44, OPPONENTS 40

Lawson 6.5, Smith 6, Brooks 6, Haralson 5, Willis 4, Spikes 4, McDonald 3, Goldson 2, Franklin 2, Evans 1.5, Lewis 1, Roman 1, Bly 1, Sopoaga 1

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH / NEWSCOM



THE BOOK ON ... VERNON DAVIS

(how a rival sizes him up)

"I was going to say 'probably,' but that's not right. He is the fastest tight end in the league. He's got a bit of nastiness to him, too. He's a good blocker. He really gets after the linebackers in the running game. He's passionate, and that sometimes works against him. He's the type of guy you can get to react and draw a flag, especially if you challenge him on the field. But he's getting better at that. He used to use that passion to glorify himself but now seems to be more team-oriented, and because of that he has the potential to be one of the best to play that position. His biggest weakness is probably consistency. He still has occasions where he drops the ball. But he's gotten a lot better in that area, too."

DEFENSE

This has been the 49ers' strength in recent seasons. Greg Manusky's 3-4 system is predicated on taking away big plays and counting on speedy linebackers like Patrick Willis and Manny Lawson to keep short completions from becoming big gains. As a result, the 49ers gave up 326.4 yards per game last year but mostly managed to keep opponents out of the end zone, ranking fourth in points allowed (17.6 a game).

Defensive line ▸▸ This unit is the most unheralded on the 49ers but also one of the best. At right defensive end, Justin Smith is one of the strongest and most relentless players in the league. He was rewarded last season with a trip to the Pro Bowl despite playing most of the year with a painful rib injury.

At nose tackle, Aubrayo Franklin is not the mammoth speed bump most 3-4 defenses employ at the point. But he is quick, smart and instinctive, and coming off the best season of his career. Willis, who has led the NFL in tackles two of the last three seasons,

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Seattle
SEPT. 12 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 2 New Orleans
SEPT. 20 | 8:30 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 3 @ Kansas City
SEPT. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 4 @ Atlanta
OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 5 Philadelphia
OCT. 10 | 8:20 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 6 Oakland
OCT. 17 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 7 @ Carolina
OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 8 Denver*
OCT. 31 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 9 OPEN DATE

WEEK 10 St. Louis
NOV. 14 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 11 Tampa Bay
NOV. 21 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 12 @ Arizona
NOV. 29 | 8:30 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 13 @ Green Bay
DEC. 5 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 14 Seattle
DEC. 12 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 15 @ San Diego
DEC. 16 | 8:20 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 16 @ St. Louis
DEC. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 17 Arizona
JAN. 2 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

*In London
Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

has attributed much of his success to Franklin's ability to occupy blockers at the line of scrimmage.

Left defensive end Isaac Sopoaga is also powerful and quick. However, he lacks the instincts of his fellow line mates. Kentwan Balmer, a first-round draft pick in 2008, backs up Sopoaga on the left side. So far he has been a disappointment, but at 6-5 and 315 pounds Sopoaga has the prototypical size for a 3-4 defensive end. Second-year player Ricky Jean-Francois is intriguing and will spend time behind Franklin at nose tackle this year. **GRADE: B+**

Linebackers ▸▸ Willis is the best player on the team and the embodiment of its defense. He is relentless, competitive and fast, and a perennial Pro Bowler. Veteran Takeo Spikes is an excellent complement to Willis, but he is entering the final year of his contract and the 49ers have yet to find an heir. The 49ers don't have a sack specialist, but the team's three outside linebackers—Ahmad Brooks, Parys Haralson and Manny Lawson—combined for 17.5 sacks last season.

The best pass rusher is Brooks, who was a third-down specialist in 2009 and likely will have the same role this season. Haralson is more of a blue-collar player who was hampered by a hip flexor injury in 2009. He is good at holding the edge in the run game, and his long arms compensate for his lack of height as a pass rusher.

Lawson, meanwhile, isn't the sack artist the 49ers hoped he'd be when they used a first-round pick to get him in 2006. However, he's one of the fastest players on the team and has been particularly good at chasing down ballcarriers from sideline to sideline. **GRADE: A-**

Secondary ▸▸ The 49ers insist Nate Clements will start at cornerback this season, but there are reasons to doubt their long-term commitment. First, Clements was bumped from the starting lineup against

OFFSEASON MOVES

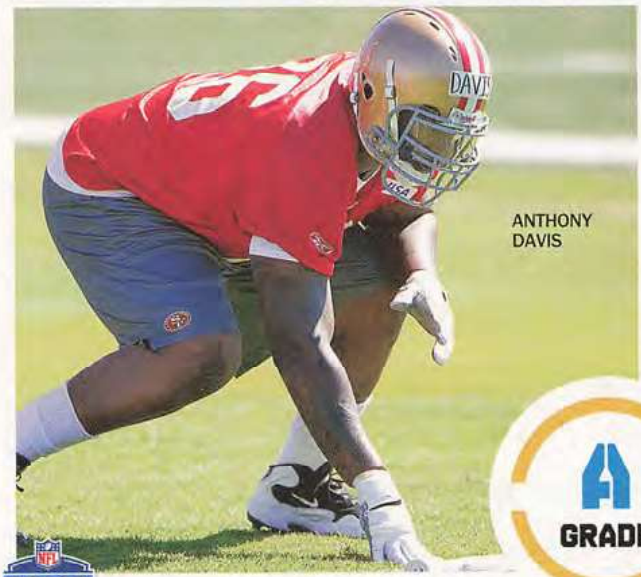
ADDITIONS

QB David Carr *(FA/Giants)*, **WR Ted Ginn Jr.** *(trade/Dolphins)*, **LB Travis LaBoy** *(FA)*

SUBTRACTIONS

CB Marcus Hudson *(FA/Panthers)*, **OT Tony Pashos** *(FA/Browns)*, **QB Shaun Hill** *(trade/Lions)*, **WR Arnaz Battle** *(FA/Steelers)*, **CB Dré Bly** *(FA)*, **CB Walt Harris** *(FA)*

DRAFT REPORT


ANTHONY DAVIS

GRADE: A

Upgrading the offensive line was a huge priority for the 49ers, and they did that by drafting offensive tackle **Anthony Davis** and guard **Mike Iupati** in the first round. Both should start as rookies and will bring an aggressive blocking mentality the 49ers need. Davis can protect the corner from speed rushers, while Iupati is good at both run and pass blocking. They'll make for an outstanding tandem on the line.

Taylor Mays is never going to star in pass coverage, but he is great at defending the run. He will make plenty of game-changing plays at safety.

Navorro Bowman fell to the third round because he is a stiff player who lacks elite athleticism, but he will fit well as an inside linebacker in the 49ers' 3-4 scheme and should challenge for playing time as a rookie.

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	11	Anthony Davis	OT	6-5	323	Rutgers
1	17	Mike Iupati	G	6-5	331	Idaho
2	17	Taylor Mays	S	6-3	230	USC
3	27	Navorro Bowman	LB	6-1	242	Penn State
6	4	Anthony Dixon	RB	6-1	233	Mississippi State
6	13	Nate Byham	TE	6-4	268	Pittsburgh
6	37	Kyle Williams	WR	5-10	188	Arizona State
7	17	Phillip Adams	CB	6-1	190	South Carolina State

KYLE TERADA / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
8 Carr, David	QB	6-3	216	07/21/1979	9	Fresno State
7 Davis, Nate	QB	6-2	217	05/25/1987	2	Ball State
11 Smith, Alex	QB	6-4	217	05/07/1984	6	Utah

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
64 Baas, David	G	6-4	330	09/28/1981	6	Michigan
75 Boone, Alex	T	6-8	312	05/04/1987	1	Ohio State
76 De La Puente, Brian	G	6-2	308	05/13/1985	2	California
66 Heitmann, Eric	C	6-3	312	02/24/1980	9	Stanford
61 Patrick, Chris	T	6-4	280	08/22/1984	2	Nebraska
62 Rachal, Chilo	T	6-4	315	03/15/1986	3	USC
65 Sims, Barry	T	6-5	300	12/01/1974	12	Utah
68 Snyder, Adam	T	6-6	325	01/30/1982	6	Oregon
74 Staley, Joe	T	6-5	315	08/30/1984	4	Central Michigan
59 Wallace, Cody	C	6-4	300	11/26/1984	3	Texas A&M
69 Wragge, Tony	G	6-4	310	08/14/1979	6	New Mexico State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
39 Caulcrick, Jehuu	RB	6-0	250	08/06/1983	1	Michigan State
29 Coffee, Glen	RB	6-0	220	05/01/1987	2	Alabama
21 Gore, Frank	RB	5-9	217	05/14/1983	6	Miami (FL)
47 Miller, Brit	RB	6-1	250	09/15/1986	1	Illinois
44 Norris, Moran	RB	6-1	250	06/16/1978	10	Kansas
24 Robinson, Michael	RB	6-1	223	02/06/1983	5	Penn State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
88 Bruce, Isaac	WR	6-0	188	11/10/1972	17	Memphis
15 Crabtree, Michael	WR	6-1	214	09/14/1987	2	Texas Tech
80 Curtis, Tony	TE	6-5	251	02/11/1983	5	Portland State
85 Davis, Vernon	TE	6-3	250	01/31/1984	5	Maryland
49 Finley, Joe Jon	TE	6-6	261	01/30/1985	1	Oklahoma
19 Ginn Jr., Ted	WR	5-11	180	04/12/1985	4	Ohio State
89 Hill, Jason	WR	6-0	202	02/20/1985	4	Washington State
86 Jennings, Brian	TE	6-5	242	10/14/1976	11	Arizona State
81 Jones, Brandon	WR	6-1	212	10/06/1982	6	Oklahoma
84 Morgan, Josh	WR	6-0	219	06/20/1985	3	Virginia Tech
46 Walker, Delanie	TE	6-0	242	08/12/1984	5	Central Missouri
17 Zeigler, Dominique	WR	6-2	181	10/11/1984	2	Baylor

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
96 Balmer, Kentwan	DE	6-5	315	10/15/1986	3	North Carolina
58 Burnett, Martail	DE	6-3	262	01/10/1985	1	Utah
93 Evans, Demetric	DE	6-4	275	09/03/1979	9	Georgia
92 Franklin, Aubrayo	DT	6-1	317	08/27/1980	8	Tennessee
95 Jean Francois, Ricky	DT	6-3	295	11/23/1986	2	LSU
91 McDonald, Ray	DE	6-3	290	09/02/1984	4	Florida
60 Mitchell, Khalif	DT	6-6	306	04/07/1985	1	East Carolina
94 Smith, Justin	DE	6-4	285	09/30/1979	10	Missouri
90 Sopoaga, Isaac	DE	6-2	330	09/04/1981	7	Hawaii
78 Walker, Derek	DE	6-4	270	09/16/1986	2	Illinois

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25 Brown, Tarell	CB	5-10	193	01/06/1985	4	Texas
22 Clements, Nate	CB	6-0	205	12/12/1979	10	Ohio State
38 Goldson, Dashon	S	6-2	200	09/18/1984	4	Washington
32 Lewis, Michael	S	6-1	222	04/29/1980	9	Colorado
41 Paymah, Karl	CB	6-0	195	11/29/1982	5	Washington State
20 Smith, Keith	CB	5-11	192	03/20/1980	7	McNeese State
30 Smith, Reggie	CB	6-1	200	09/03/1986	3	Oklahoma
36 Spencer, Shawntae	CB	6-1	190	02/22/1982	7	Pittsburgh
28 Taylor, Curtis	S	6-2	208	07/13/1985	2	LSU

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Briggs, Diyral	LB	6-4	232	10/31/1985	2	Bowling Green
55 Brooks, Ahmad	LB	6-3	259	03/14/1984	5	Virginia
98 Haralson, Parys	LB	6-0	255	01/24/1984	5	Tennessee
99 Lawson, Manny	LB	6-5	240	07/03/1984	5	N.C. State
56 McKillop, Scott	LB	6-1	243	03/04/1986	2	Pittsburgh
51 Spikes, Takeo	LB	6-2	242	12/17/1976	13	Auburn
57 Wilhelm, Matt	LB	6-4	245	02/02/1981	8	Ohio State
52 Willis, Patrick	LB	6-1	240	01/25/1985	4	Ole Miss

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Andrus, Shane	K	5-10	190	10/02/1980	1	Murray State
4 Lee, Andy	P	6-0	178	08/11/1982	7	Pittsburgh
6 Nedney, Joe	K	6-5	234	03/22/1973	15	San Jose State

» MIKE SINGLETARY, *Head coach*

Jimmy Raye, offensive coordinator; **Greg Manusky**, defensive coordinator; **Kurt Schottenheimer**, special teams coordinator; **Mike Solari**, offensive line; **Ray Brown**, offensive line assistant; **Tom Rathman**, running backs; **Pete Hoener**, tight ends; **Jerry Sullivan**, wide receivers/senior assistant; **Mike Johnson**, quarterbacks; **Vance Joseph**, co-secondary; **Johnnie Lynn**, co-secondary; **Jason Tarver**, outside linebackers; **Vantz Singletary**, inside linebackers; **Jim Tomsula**, defensive line; **Dave Fipp**, special teams assistant

Indianapolis last season after coaches decided he wasn't a good matchup against the Colts' quick-strike attack. More disconcerting may be Clements' salary, which jumps to $6 million this season and only grows bigger in coming years. Clements is a solid tackler and an asset in the locker room. But his speed is questionable, and he has not been the shutdown cornerback the team envisioned when they signed him in 2007.

Shawntae Spencer, meanwhile, quietly was the MVP of the secondary in 2009. Spencer is fast and smart, and returned from an ACL tear in 2008 stronger than before. Tarell Brown is a decent nickel cornerback, but did not seize a starting job when he had a chance last year.

Dashon Goldson is a rising star at free safety. He is a ballhawk with good range who is unafraid to swoop in and support the running game. Goldson's partner, Michael Lewis, enters 2010 on shaky ground after suffering three concussions in quick succession last year. **GRADE: C**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE SINGLETARY

Singletary is conservative by nature, favoring an offense that leans heavily on the running game and a defense designed to prevent big plays. However, he also can be impulsive and impatient, prompting him to challenge calls and go for fourth-down conversions in instances when caution would perhaps be more prudent.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The 49ers finished last in the league in punt return average in 2009, underscoring their need for a speedy return man. Five different 49ers returned punts last year, with none of them making any impact. Morgan showed a gift for returning kicks late in the season. However, he promises to be a starting receiver again next season, and coaches don't want to risk an injury.

The 49ers will also have to replace two of their top special teamers in Jeff Ulbrich, who retired, and Marcus Hudson, a free agent who signed with the Panthers. Robinson, a vicious lead blocker on kickoff returns, will reprise that role this year. Second-year player Scott McKillop led the 49ers in special teams tackles last season, and is quickly emerging as one of the unit's best players. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

The 49ers are the favorite to win the NFC West this season, if for no other reason than their division opponents are all in a state of flux. Now healthy, Smith will run the same offense in consecutive seasons, a luxury he has not had in the five previous years. Given his contract status, it's likely playoffs or bust for the hopes of Smith returning. Led by Willis, the defense promises to be solid again this year, especially against the run.

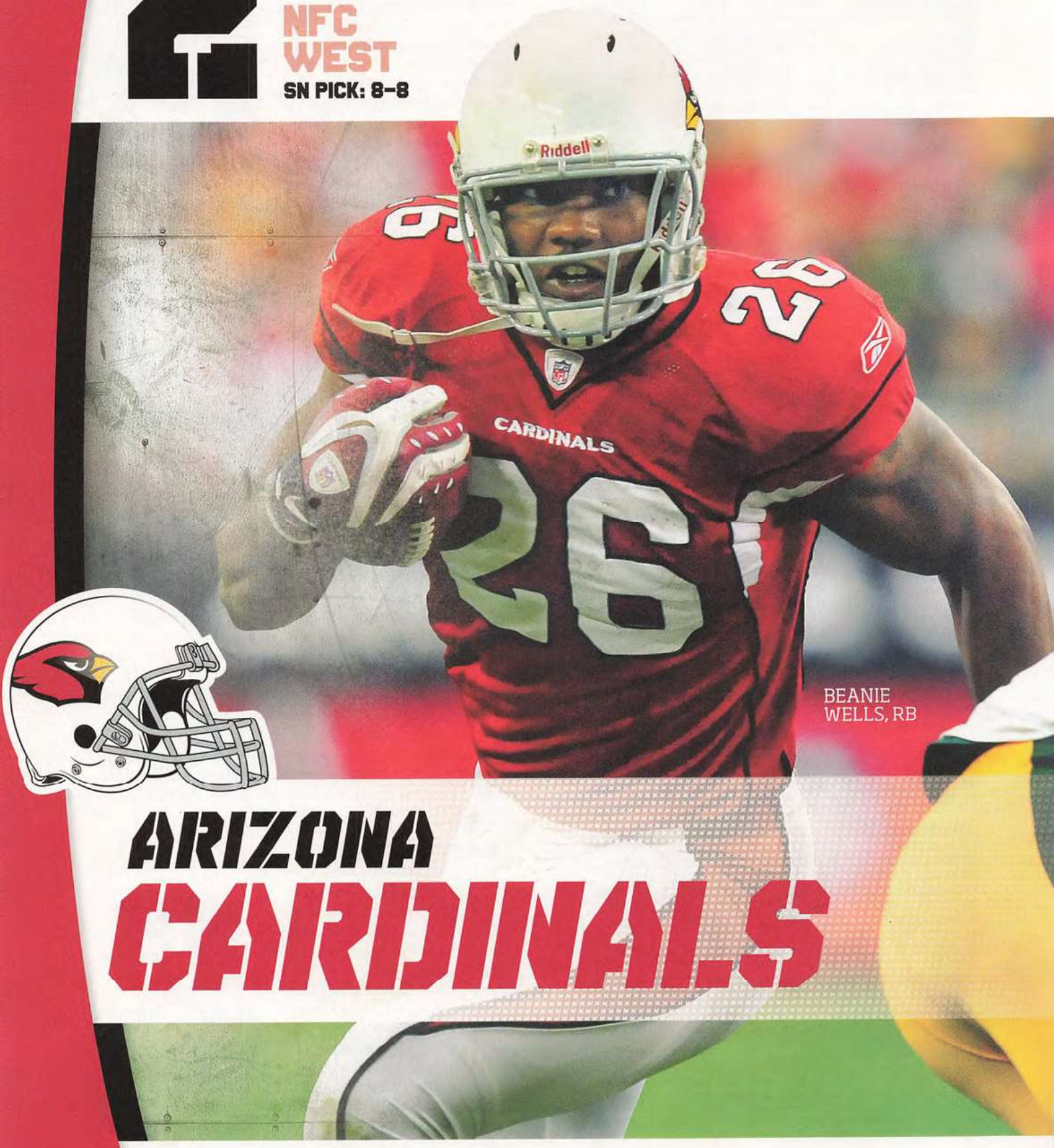
89

FINAL GRADE

2

NFC WEST

SN PICK: 8-8



BEANIE WELLS, RB

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Leinart's wing will show how far Cards fly in 2010

By Kent Somers, *Arizona Republic*

Thanks to an old quarterback, a new coach and some blue-chip draft picks, the Cardinals spent the past three seasons distancing themselves from their futile past and proving that no NFL team is too far away from winning.

Two straight NFC West titles earned coach Ken Whisenhunt a contract extension this offseason, but there are changes everywhere else. Receiver Anquan Boldin was traded, while free safety Antrel Rolle (Giants) and inside linebacker Karlos Dansby (Dolphins) signed big-money contracts with other teams.

Oh, and the old quarterback, Kurt Warner, retired, handing the job to Matt Leinart.

Whisenhunt knows many pundits will predict disastrous results, as if Warner handed his Lamborghini keys to a pimple-faced valet. But with a veteran offensive line, an elite receiver in Larry Fitzgerald and an improving run game led by Beanie Wells and Tim Hightower, Leinart has help.

And while the former Heisman Trophy winner out of USC will be the featured story of the 2010 season, the performance of the defense could have more of an impact on the overall record.

OFFENSE

Arizona's offense should finally resemble the one everyone thought Whisenhunt would bring three years ago. While Whisenhunt isn't afraid of the pass, this club should feature a power running attack with two physical runners, a huge offensive line and big play-action schemes. Leinart is more mobile than Warner, so expect more bootlegs. Whisenhunt again will call plays, but Mike Miller (passing game coordinator) and Russ Grimm (running game coordinator) have considerable input in the game planning.

Quarterbacks Short of offering Warner an ownership share, the Cardinals did everything they could to get him to return for the final year of his contract. But Warner steadfastly stuck to his retirement decision, so the Cardinals will finally see what they have in Leinart.

The No. 10 overall pick in 2006, Leinart was supposed to be the future of the franchise. But he lost the starting job to Warner in training camp in 2008 and has only made spot appearances the past two seasons.

Leinart tends to get sloppy in his mechanics, which coaches believe has caused his occasional inaccuracy. Like Warner, Leinart doesn't have a rocket arm, so he's going to have to learn to throw the ball on time and speed up his release.

Backup Derek Anderson, in contrast, does have a strong arm, but he struggled with consistency and accuracy the last couple of years in Cleveland.

The Cardinals aren't sure what they have in Anderson, but he will be given a chance to compete with Leinart. **GRADE: C-**

Running backs Wells (age 21) and Hightower (23) should form one of the best young tandems in the league. Hightower has an edge in experience and versatility, which is why he started all of last season. By the end of last year, however, Wells was receiving most of the carries.

Hightower will be a big part of the offense, though. He's improved as a runner, and was already known as a good receiver and excellent blocker.

LaRod Stephens-Howling will likely be the third-down back. He's small (5-7, 180 pounds), but also lightning-quick and should be a threat in the open field. Whisenhunt likes to keep one fullback on the roster, but that job is open right now. **GRADE: B+**

Receivers There isn't a better receiver in the NFL than Fitzgerald, and no

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

BEANIE WELLS — **RB**

Wells backed up Tim Hightower last season but was getting most of the carries by season's end. He should be a focal point of the offense this season, given the retirement of Kurt Warner and the decreased emphasis on the passing game.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Matt Leinart Derek Anderson
FB	Reagan Mauia Jason Wright
RB	Beanie Wells Tim Hightower
LT	Levi Brown Jeremy Bridges
LG	Alan Faneca Reggie Wells
C	Lyle Sendlein Rex Hadnot
RG	Deuce Lutui Rex Hadnot
RT	Brandon Keith Jeremy Bridges
TE	Ben Patrick Anthony Becht
WR	Larry Fitzgerald Edward Gant
WR	Steve Breaston Early Doucet
	DEFENSE
LE	Darnell Dockett Kenny Iwebema
NT	Dan Williams Gabe Watson
RE	Calais Campbell Kenny Iwebema
OLB	Clark Haggans Cody Brown
ILB	Gerald Hayes Reggie Walker
ILB	Daryl Washington Paris Lenon
OLB	Joey Porter Will Davis
LCB	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie Michael Adams
SS	Adrian Wilson Matt Ware
FS	Kerry Rhodes Rashad Johnson
RCB	Greg Toler Michael Adams
	SPECIALISTS
K	Jay Feely
P	Ben Graham
KR	Justin Miller
PR	Steve Breaston
LS	Mike Leach

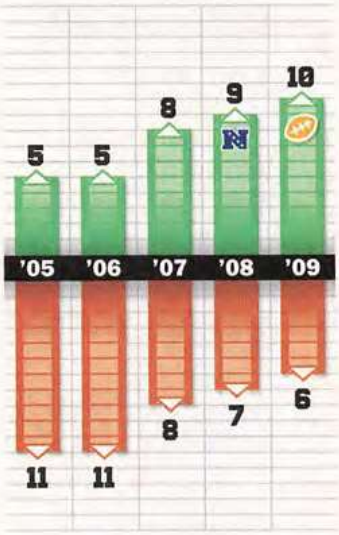
2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 10-6 **HOME:** 4-4

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/cardinals
www.azcardinals.com

STADIUM
University of Phoenix Stadium
Capacity: 63,400 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 602-379-0102
Training Camp: Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz.; 818-523-1818

OPPOSITE PAGE: CHRIS MORRISON / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR RECORD: 37-43



FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Look for Larry Fitzgerald to drop out of the first round (and maybe even the second) now that Kurt Warner has retired and Matt Leinart is the Cardinals' quarterback.

BUY
Beanie Wells
RB

SELL
Defense/Special Teams

SLEEPER
Steve Breaston
WR

one works harder at improving his skill level.

Fitzgerald hasn't missed a game since 2007, a testament to how hard he trains in the offseason. At 217 pounds, he's lean and faster than he was in his early NFL years.

This will be the first year Fitzgerald has played without the comfort of Boldin flanking him, though. Boldin, traded to Baltimore in the offseason, was a nice complement to Fitzgerald. While Fitzgerald excels on sideline catches and deep balls, Boldin did a lot of the dirty work, working underneath against safeties and linebackers.

Steve Breaston is a proven replacement for Boldin and more of a big-play threat. Breaston has speed and, despite a thin frame, runs well after the catch.

Early Doucet takes over the No. 3 role, but he's been hampered by injuries in both of his NFL seasons.

The tight ends are solid, but not great. Ben Patrick is the most versatile, but he's been nicked by injuries and hasn't played a full season. Veteran Anthony Becht is a strong blocker. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line Arizona's starting offensive line is being overhauled—the first significant changes since Whisenhunt took over in 2007. Former Steeler and Jet Alan Faneca is expected to play left guard, with Reggie Wells possibly moving to right guard or right tackle.

Levi Brown is expected to move from right tackle to left, replacing Mike Gandy, who wasn't re-signed. If Wells stays at guard, Brandon Keith, a third-year pro, and veteran Jeremy Bridges will compete for the job at right tackle.

Coaches are convinced that Brown has the tools to be a solid left tackle, although there have been some rough times on the right side the past three years. He played left tackle in college, however, and has worked there in practice.

At 6-5 and 338 pounds, Keith is mammoth and has surprisingly good feet. In combination with right guard Deuce Lutui, the Cardinals have a duo that should open some holes.

Veteran Rex Hadnot will challenge Lutui for his job. Center Lyle Sendlein returns and is coming off his best season. Wells suffered through a subpar year in 2009, largely because he played through injuries. **GRADE: B+**

DEFENSE

Whisenhunt would like to develop a system similar to the Steelers' attack, but he hasn't had the players yet to implement that scheme. The Cardinals don't have a proven, prototypical nose tackle to hold

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	344.4	14
RUSHING	93.4	28
PASSING	251.0	12
SCORING	375	11
PUNT RETURNS	6.8	24
KICK RETURNS	23.8	9
RED ZONE TD %	70.4	1
TOTAL DEFENSE	346.4	20
AGAINST RUSH	112.8	17
AGAINST PASS	233.7	23
POINTS ALLOWED	325	14t
INTERCEPTIONS	21	7
SACKS	43	6
TURNOVER DIFF.	-7	24t

CARDINALS' ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(official stats for sacks began in 1982)

1. **Freddie Joe Nunn** *(1985-93)* — **66.5**
2. **Simeon Rice** *(1996-2000)* — **51.5**
3. **Curtis Greer** *(1981-87)* — **50.5**

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Cardinals)

"You have to replace a top-echelon quarterback; that's the biggest weakness right there. And that's awfully hard, no matter who is coming in next after that. I think Beanie Wells, if he's allowed to have an impact on the ballgame, can wear you down. He doesn't do everything well, but he's good at what he does have. Over time, you'll see this guy leave an imprint on a ballgame. He's a big, fast, explosive guy who can go straight downhill. But history, his history, says he will get hurt. He's an upright runner who will take a lot of hits. He'll need help and the other guy (Tim Hightower) is really similar. They can use those guys to crush people, and Matt (Leinart) has always been a great play-action passer. They did a good job of setting things up this way. ...

"On defense, I tell you what, they lost two playmakers in Karlos Dansby and Antrel Rolle. Karlos was a leader and he could go sideline to sideline. With Antrel, you lose another guy you could count on. He was going to make three plays a game. Now you find yourself asking, 'Who is going to make those plays?' They will replace them with bodies, but will they be as good?"

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	16-20	San Francisco 49ers
09/20	W	31-17	at Jacksonville Jaguars
09/27	L	10-31	Indianapolis Colts
10/11	W	28-21	Houston Texans
10/18	W	27-3	at Seattle Seahawks
10/25	W	24-17	at New York Giants
11/01	L	21-34	Carolina Panthers
11/08	W	41-21	at Chicago Bears
11/15	W	31-20	Seattle Seahawks
11/22	W	21-13	at St. Louis Rams
11/29	L	17-20	at Tennessee Titans
12/06	W	30-17	Minnesota Vikings
12/14	L	9-24	at San Francisco 49ers
12/20	W	31-24	at Detroit Lions
12/27	W	31-10	St. Louis Rams
01/03	L	7-33	Green Bay Packers

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wells	176	793	4.5	33	7
Hightower	143	598	4.2	50	8
Breaston	2	44	22.0	25	0
Wright	3	17	5.7	8	0
Stephens-Howling	6	15	2.5	5	0
Boldin	3	12	4.0	5	1
Warner	21	10	0.5	10	0
Rolle	1	9	9.0	9	0
St. Pierre	1	2	2.0	2	0
Leinart	9	-6	-0.7	1	0
CARDINALS	**356**	**1494**	**4.1**	**50**	**16**
OPPONENTS	402	1804	4.5	85	13

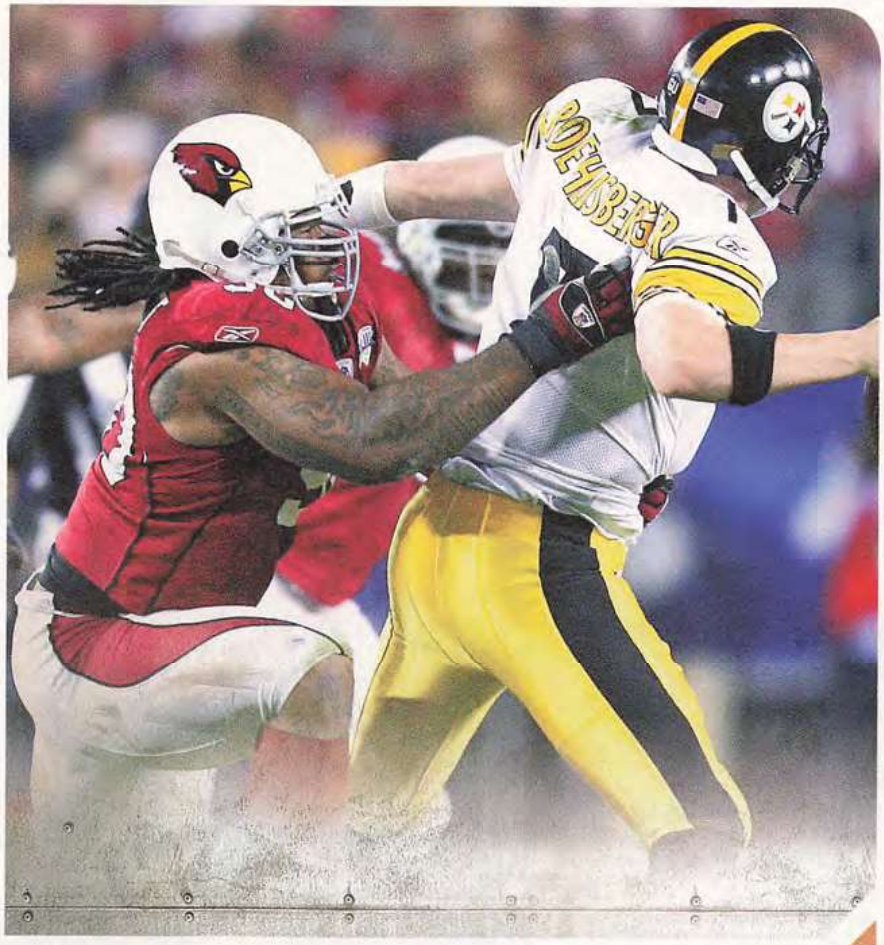
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Fitzgerald	97	1,092	11.3	34	13
Boldin	84	1,024	12.2	44	4
Hightower	63	428	6.8	23	0
Breaston	55	712	12.9	45	3
Urban	18	186	10.3	40	0
Doucet	17	214	12.6	29	1
Patrick	12	146	12.2	28	2
Wells	12	143	11.9	25	0
Stephens-Howling	10	83	8.3	15	1
Wright	9	53	5.9	10	2
Becht	7	61	8.7	16	1
Kreider	4	20	5.0	8	0
Spach	4	38	9.5	22	0
CARDINALS	**392**	**4200**	**10.7**	**45**	**27**
OPPONENTS	346	3739	10.8	72	22

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Warner	513	339	3,753	26	14
Leinart	77	51	435	0	3
St. Pierre	4	2	12	1	1
CARDINALS	**594**	**392**	**4200**	**27**	**18**
OPPONENTS	593	346	3998	22	21

SACKS CARDINALS 43, OPPONENTS 26

Campbell 7, Dockett 7, Berry 6, Haggans 5, Okeafor 4.5, Branch 2, Davis 2, Iwebema 2, Wilson 2, Rolle 1.5, Banks 1, Dansby 1, Robinson 1

ORLANDO SENTINEL / MCT / NEWSCOM



THE BOOK ON ... DARNELL DOCKETT

(how a rival sizes him up)

"The first thing is, he is so explosive and powerful. He is so disruptive. Those are the first two things you notice about him. The third thing is, he has a tremendous motor. One of the things you will notice about him is that he will take plays off. That's the difference between him and his former teammate, Antonio Smith. He never, ever stopped. He never took a play off. I think once Darnell gets that, he'll be one of the most dominant guys in the league. ...

"Every year, the guy has gotten better. When he was young, you knew you had a player, but he came with some baggage. He had an attitude and you've seen a little of that. But that may be what drives him and gives him an edge. You have to double-team him from the start of the game. You want to wear him down over the long haul and hope by the fourth quarter that he's not as disruptive. But the way they use him helps his explosiveness. They put him in gaps and give him angles."

the point of attack, and they've lacked elite pass rushers off the edge. Coordinator Bill Davis called enough blitzes last year for the club to put pressure on the passer, but the Cardinals need to be able to do that with only four rushers.

Defensive line ▸▸ The strength of the unit is at end, where the Cardinals have one established star, Darnell Dockett, and one with potential, Calais Campbell.

Dockett is a force. At 285 pounds, he has incredible quickness and is explosive off the line of scrimmage. Along the front seven, Dockett is the one player who concerns offensive coordinators the most.

Campbell was productive last season (7 sacks), his first as a starter. At 6-7, he has long arms that result in batted-down passes and blocked field goals.

The question along the defensive line is at nose tackle. Dan Williams, the team's 2010 first-round pick, will be given every chance to start. Gabe Watson, entering his fifth year, has

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ St. Louis
SEPT. 12 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 2 @ Atlanta
SEPT. 19 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 3 Oakland
SEPT. 26 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 4 @ San Diego
OCT. 3 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 5 New Orleans
OCT. 10 | 4:05
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 6 OPEN DATE

WEEK 7 @ Seattle
OCT. 24 | 4:05
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 8 Tampa Bay
OCT. 31 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 9 @ Minnesota
NOV. 7 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 10 Seattle
NOV. 14 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 11 @ Kansas City
NOV. 21 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 12 San Francisco
NOV. 29 | 8:30
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 13 St. Louis
DEC. 5 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 14 Denver
DEC. 12 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 15 @ Carolina
DEC. 19 | 1:00
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 16 Dallas
DEC. 25 | 7:30
— (W) (L)
SCORE

WEEK 17 @ San Francisco
JAN. 2 | 4:15
— (W) (L)
SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

been hampered by injuries. Alan Branch, taken in the second round three years ago, has moved to end.

Kenny Iwebema is a decent backup end, while Keilen Dykes can play both nose tackle and end. He missed last season with an injury and could figure into the mix this year. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸▸ This group is the biggest concern on the team, despite having three of the four starting positions manned by veterans.

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

G Rex Hadnot *(FA/Browns)*, **QB Derek Anderson** *(FA/Browns)*, **G Alan Faneca** *(FA/Jets)*, **LB Joey Porter** *(FA/Dolphins)*, **S Kerry Rhodes** *(trade/Jets)*, **LB Paris Lenon** *(FA/Rams)*, **K Jay Feely** *(FA/Jets)*, **CB Justin Miller** *(FA/Jets)*

SUBTRACTIONS

LB Karlos Dansby *(FA/Dolphins)*, **S Antrel Rolle** *(FA/Giants)*, **OT Mike Gandy** *(FA)*, **QB Kurt Warner** *(retired)*, **WR Anquan Boldin** *(trade/Ravens)*, **DE Chike Okeafor** *(FA)*, **K Neil Rackers** *(FA/Texans)*, **K Mike Nugent** *(FA/Bengals)*, **WR Jerheme Urban** *(FA/Chiefs)*, **CB Bryant McFadden** *(trade/Steelers)*, **WR Sean Morey** *(FA/Seahawks)*

Porter and Clark Haggans, both 33, will start at outside linebacker, just as they did earlier this decade with the Steelers. Haggans played well for the Cardinals last season, while Porter became a starter with the Dolphins.

Porter thinks he has plenty left in the tank, and the Cardinals signed him hoping he can provide the one-on-one pass rush they've been lacking at outside linebacker.

The bigger problem is inside at Dansby's old spot. Arizona signed Paris Lenon in free agency, but he's spent time with the Lions and Rams the past few years, and neither team saw it fit to re-sign him. Coaches hope second-round pick Daryl Washington can at least contribute in passing situations.

Gerald Hayes, the other inside linebacker, struggled through a back problem last season. When healthy, he remains a good run stuffer, but the team has to groom a replacement.

Outside linebackers Cody Brown and Will Davis are converted defensive ends and still learning the position. Brown missed all of his rookie year with a wrist injury. **GRADE: C**

DRAFT REPORT

B-
GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	26	Dan Williams	DT	6-2	327	Tennessee
2	15	Daryl Washington	LB	6-2	230	TCU
3	24	Andre Roberts	WR	5-11	195	Citadel
4	32	O'Brien Schofield	LB	6-2	221	Wisconsin
5	24	John Skelton	QB	6-6	243	Fordham
6	32	Jorrick Calvin	CB	5-10	182	Troy
7	26	Jim Dray	TE	6-5	246	Stanford

The Cardinals fulfilled their need for a big run stuffer by grabbing Tennessee's **Dan Williams** with the 26th overall pick. Williams is a strong defensive tackle who can shut down the inside run and chase down ballcarriers. **Daryl Washington** could be the ideal replacement for Karlos Dansby, who left as a free agent. Washington is a good value despite his lack of size and instincts. **Andre Roberts** is a quick and athletic receiver and return man. **John Skelton** has a big-time arm, but he'll need to improve his accuracy and decision-making if he is ever going to develop as an NFL quarterback.

The steal of the Cardinals' draft could be fourth-rounder **O'Brien Schofield**, whose draft status dropped when he tore his ACL at the Senior Bowl. Before the injury, he was an explosive pass rusher. He will fit well in the Cardinals' defensive scheme when he recovers..

CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSOM

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Anderson, Derek	QB	6-6	230	06/15/1983	6	Oregon State
7 Leinart, Matt	QB	6-5	232	05/11/1983	5	USC

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
73 Bridges, Jeremy	G	6-4	325	04/19/1980	8	Southern Miss
75 Brown, Levi	T	6-5	324	03/16/1984	4	Penn State
62 Claxton, Ben	C	6-2	301	07/30/1980	4	Ole Miss
66 Faneca, Alan	G	6-5	305	12/07/1976	13	LSU
70 Hadnot, Rex	G	6-2	320	01/28/1982	7	Houston
67 Johnson, Herman	T	6-7	382	01/29/1985	2	LSU
72 Keith, Brandon	T	6-5	338	11/21/1984	3	Northern Iowa
76 Lutui, Deuce	G	6-4	338	05/05/1983	5	USC
66 Palmer, Jonathan	G	6-4	336	12/03/1983	1	Auburn
68 Pestock, Tom	G	6-6	317	09/13/1984	1	Northwest Missouri St.
63 Sendlein, Lyle	C	6-3	305	03/16/1984	4	Texas
74 Wells, Reggie	G	6-4	312	11/03/1980	8	Clarion

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Broughton, Nehemiah	RB	5-11	255	11/04/1982	3	Citadel
34 Hightower, Tim	RB	6-0	222	05/23/1986	3	Richmond
45 Maui'a, Reagan	RB	6-0	260	07/06/1984	3	Hawaii
36 Stephens-Howling, LaRod	RB	5-7	180	04/26/1987	2	Pittsburgh
26 Wells, Beanie	RB	6-1	228	08/07/1988	2	Ohio State
31 Wright, Jason	RB	5-10	212	07/12/1982	6	Northwestern

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
84 Becht, Anthony	TE	6-6	270	08/08/1977	11	West Virginia
15 Breaston, Steve	WR	6-0	189	08/20/1983	4	Michigan
86 Byrd, Dominique	TE	6-3	255	02/07/1984	4	USC
80 Doucet, Early	WR	6-0	212	10/28/1985	3	LSU
11 Fitzgerald, Larry	WR	6-3	217	08/31/1983	7	Pittsburgh
16 Gant, Ed	WR	6-3	190	01/24/1985	1	North Alabama
17 Jones, Onrea	WR	6-0	202	12/22/1983	1	Hampton
82 Leach, Mike	TE	6-2	238	10/18/1976	11	William & Mary
85 Mougey, Darren	WR	6-5	215	04/07/1985	0	San Diego State
89 Patrick, Ben	TE	6-3	264	08/23/1984	4	Delaware
83 Spach, Stephen	TE	6-4	260	07/18/1982	5	Fresno State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
78 Branch, Alan	DT	6-5	338	12/29/1984	4	Michigan
93 Campbell, Calais	DE	6-7	290	09/01/1986	3	Miami (FL)
71 Clark, Jeremy	DE	6-3	309	09/06/1983	2	Alabama
90 Dockett, Darnell	DT	6-4	285	05/27/1981	7	Florida State
94 Dykes, Keilen	DT	6-3	305	09/06/1984	2	West Virginia
91 Iwebema, Kenny	DE	6-4	280	02/06/1985	3	Iowa
65 Kees, Ryan	DE	6-6	275	04/02/1986	1	St. Cloud State
64 Muhtadi, Dean	DE	6-3	296	07/17/1986	1	Maryland
98 Watson, Gabe	DT	6-4	329	09/24/1983	5	Michigan

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
41 Abdullah, Hamza	S	6-2	216	08/20/1983	6	Washington State
27 Adams, Michael	CB	5-8	181	06/17/1985	4	Louisiana-Lafayette
23 Barksdale, Rashad	CB	6-0	208	05/11/1984	2	Albany
49 Johnson, Rashad	S	5-11	203	01/02/1986	2	Alabama
44 Jones, Herana-Daze	S	5-11	206	04/15/1982	4	Indiana
37 McBride, Trumaine	CB	5-9	185	09/24/1985	4	Ole Miss
25 McFadden, Bryant	CB	6-0	190	11/21/1981	6	Florida State
47 Miller, Justin	CB	5-10	195	02/14/1985	6	Clemson
25 Rhodes, Kerry	S	6-3	214	08/02/1982	6	Louisville
29 Rodgers-Cromartie, Dominique	CB	6-2	185	04/07/1986	3	Tennessee State
28 Toler, Greg	CB	6-0	191	01/02/1985	2	St. Paul's College
22 Ware, Matt	S	6-2	215	12/02/1982	7	UCLA
24 Wilson, Adrian	S	6-3	226	10/12/1979	10	N.C. State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
51 Baggs, Stevie	LB	6-2	241	12/30/1981	1	Bethune-Cookman
50 Beisel, Monty	LB	6-3	244	08/20/1978	10	Kansas State
52 Brown, Cody	LB	6-3	244	11/09/1986	1	Connecticut
59 Davis, Will	LB	6-2	261	06/02/1986	2	Illinois
53 Haggans, Clark	LB	6-4	243	01/10/1977	11	Colorado State
54 Hayes, Gerald	LB	6-1	246	10/10/1980	8	Pittsburgh
95 Highsmith, Ali	LB	6-1	230	01/20/1985	3	LSU
51 Lenon, Paris	LB	6-2	235	11/26/1977	9	Richmond
55 Porter, Joey	LB	6-3	255	03/22/1977	12	Colorado State
56 Walker, Reggie	LB	6-0	238	12/15/1986	2	Kansas State
96 Washington, Mark	LB	6-3	250	08/20/1985	1	Texas State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Feely, Jay	K	5-10	205	05/23/1976	10	Michigan
5 Graham, Ben	P	6-5	235	11/02/1973	6	Deakin (Australia)

KEN WHISENHUNT, *Head coach*
Russ Grimm, assistant head coach/running game coordinator/offensive line; **Bill Davis,** defensive coordinator; **Kevin Spencer,** special teams coordinator; **Mike Miller,** passing game coordinator; **Tommie Robinson,** running backs; **Freddie Kitchens,** tight ends; **John McNulty,** wide receivers; **Chris Miller,** quarterbacks; **Donnie Henderson,** defensive backs; **Rick Courtright,** defensive backs assistant; **Matt Raich,** defensive assistant/linebackers; **Ron Aiken,** defensive line

Secondary Cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie admits he's barely tapped his potential. His mind tends to wander on the field. He doesn't always pay attention in meetings. He wears a little kid's backpack to work. But, boy, can he cover.

Rodgers-Cromartie was selected to the Pro Bowl last season, his second in the NFL, but wasn't happy with how he played. Rodgers-Cromartie struggled, at least by his standards, early in the year and played better over the second half.

Greg Toler, a fourth-round pick last year, takes over at the other spot for Bryant McFadden, who was traded during the draft. Toler has similar physical skills to Rodgers-Cromartie, but he's tougher and a better tackler. He has little experience, however, and will be tested early.

Strong safety Adrian Wilson remains the defensive leader, and is best playing close to the line of scrimmage. Kerry Rhodes, obtained in a trade with the Jets, takes over for Rolle at free safety.

Matt Ware is more than just a backup safety. He plays a key role in nickel and dime situations, allowing Wilson to move to more of a linebacker position. **GRADE: B**

INSIDE THE HEADSET

KEN WHISENHUNT

Whisenhunt has an engineering degree from Georgia Tech, so there is logic behind almost every move he makes. He is as creative as any coach in the league, loves gadget plays and isn't afraid to go for it on fourth down or make a bold call in order to win a game.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jay Feely replaces Neil Rackers at kicker, but they are similar. Both are 33 with solid track records for accuracy. Feely has a strong leg and should excel in good weather.

Ben Graham was as good as any punter in the NFL last season. With Breaston moving into the starting receiver's role, coaches would like to find another punt return specialist, and free-agent acquisition Justin Miller is the leading candidate. He'll compete with LaRod Stephens-Howling. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

Anyone expecting Leinart to meet the standard set the past two seasons by Warner is unrealistic. Don't count Whisenhunt among them. He's not down on Leinart, but Warner played like a future Hall of Famer, and that's hard to follow.

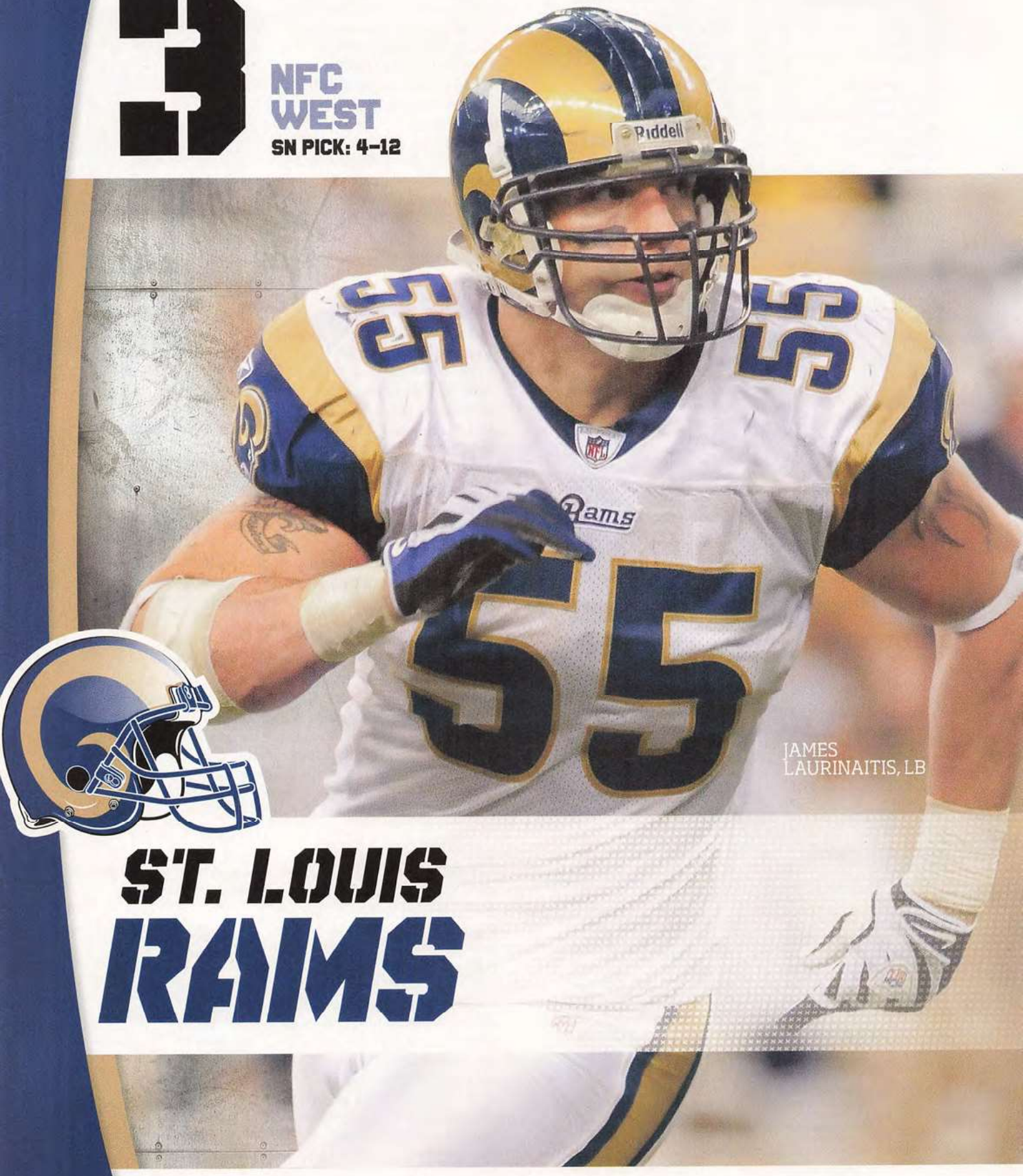
With Leinart, the Cardinals will rely on the run game and use play-action more often. Most of the focus this offseason was on the quarterback change, but the season will be determined by the defense. The unit collapsed at the end of 2009, mostly because of a lack of depth and an elite pass rusher.

81
FINAL GRADE

3

NFC WEST

SN PICK: 4-12



JAMES LAURINAITIS, LB

ST. LOUIS RAMS

All eyes on Bradford as Rams begin youth movement

By Jim Thomas, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

And a rookie was chosen to lead them.

For most of the past decade under quarterback Marc Bulger, the Rams grew steadily worse. Bulger and the team's won-lost record took a beating as the talent level deteriorated dramatically in a series of unproductive drafts and questionable free-agent moves.

Enter Sam Bradford, the No. 1 overall pick out of Oklahoma, to pull the franchise out of a desperate situation. With ticket sales plummeting almost as rapidly as the team's victory total, the Rams are counting on the gifted Bradford to lead this franchise back to respectability.

No one's expecting a reprise of the "Greatest Show on Turf," but any kind of show would be an improvement over the product the Rams have been parading out on the turf of the Edward Jones Dome in recent years.

OFFENSE

The plan last year was to run a Philadelphia-style West Coast offense under coordinator Pat Shurmur, who had spent much of the decade as Eagles quarterbacks coach. But the Rams were conservative in 2009, largely at the request of coach Steve Spagnuolo. They took few shots downfield and few chances overall. Even with what still looks like marginal talent at the wide receiver and tight end positions, the Rams need to loosen things up in the passing game, even with a rookie quarterback.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ The Rams say they won't rush Bradford into action, but for the kind of money they're paying him, why not have him in there from the get-go? Bradford will face a steep learning curve, getting to know the ins and outs of a pro-style offense after running the spread at Oklahoma.

Although he operated under center early in his college career, Bradford needs to polish his footwork. But he is bright and eager and will do everything he can to be ready for opening day.

Bradford has all the tools necessary to be a highly successful NFL quarterback. He has prototypical size for the position, above-average arm strength and accuracy that wowed a variety of pro scouts during his evaluation leading up to the draft.

By no means a scrambler, he is more athletic than given credit for and should have good escapability in the pocket. But it will take a while to get used to the speed of the NFL game and the multiplicity of coverages.

Veteran A.J. Feeley was signed to be a bridge quarterback in case he needs to start some games while Bradford is still learning. Feeley knows the offense, having played for Shurmur in Philadelphia. **GRADE: C**

Running backs ▸▸ The Rams tried to win by giving Steven Jackson a steady diet a year ago. Didn't work. Jackson did his best, leading the NFC in rushing and earning his second Pro Bowl berth. But there wasn't enough around him, and Jackson wore down (back problems) over the final third of the '09 season. As strong and determined a runner as he is, Jackson and the Rams weren't successful in short-yardage situation or the red zone last season.

More variety and more viable options on offense are a must, and it's debatable if the Rams got enough help for Jackson, unless Bradford and rookie wideout Mardy Gilyard have instant impacts.

Amazingly, the Rams went through most of the offseason as well as the NFL draft without adding a viable backup to Jackson. Kenneth Darby is a tough runner, but he's on the small side and lacks speed. Chris Ogbonnaya must show he's more

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

LAURENT ROBINSON — **WR**

Robinson looked like the Rams' go-to receiver until suffering a season-ending fractured fibula in Game 3 against Green Bay. He has decent size (6-2, 194 pounds), good speed and will go up and get the ball in a crowd.

MARK CUNNINGHAM / GETTY IMAGES

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Sam Bradford A.J. Feeley
FB	Mike Karney
RB	Steven Jackson Kenneth Darby
LT	Jason Smith Adam Goldberg
LG	Jacob Bell Roger Allen III
C	Jason Brown Hank Fraley
RG	John Greco Mark Setterstrom
RT	Rodger Saffold Adam Goldberg
TE	Daniel Fells Billy Bajema
WR	Laurent Robinson Brandon Gibson
WR	Donnie Avery Mardy Gilyard
	DEFENSE
DE	Chris Long Victor Adeyanju
DT	Fred Robbins Gary Gibson
DT	Clifton Ryan Darell Scott
DE	James Hall George Selvie
SLB	David Vobora Larry Grant
MLB	James Laurinaitis Bobby Carpenter
WLB	Na'il Diggs Chris Chamberlain
LCB	Ron Bartell Kevin Dockery
SS	James Butler David Roach
FS	Oshiomogho Atogwe Craig Dahl
RCB	Bradley Fletcher Jerome Murphy
	SPECIALISTS
K	Josh Brown
P	Donnie Jones
KR	Mardy Gilyard
PR	Mardy Gilyard
LS	Chris Massey

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 1-15 HOME: 0-8

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/rams
www.stlouisrams.com

STADIUM
Edward Jones Dome
Capacity: 65,321 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 314-425-8830
Training Camp: Russell Training Center, St. Louis; 314-516-8852

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

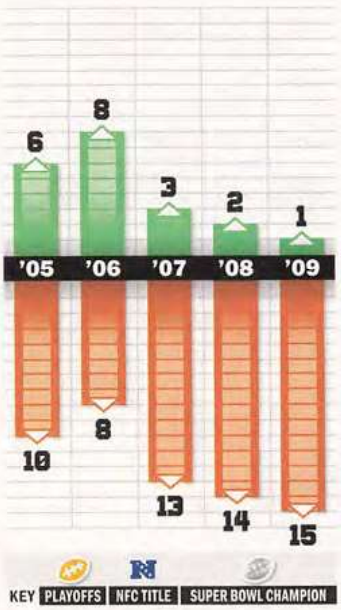
(an opponent breaks down the Rams)

"As I look at the Rams as an objective guy, where do you start? Steven Jackson's a great player, but the Rams' issue is they have absolutely no game-changers on the football team. Jackson's it. ... They have no game-changers on offense, no game-changers on defense. They're all not bad players, but they're not difference-makers. And that's the difference in whether you're good or not—it's not the full roster.

"Their offensive line to me is functional if they're all healthy. It isn't great, but it's functional. They need a receiver. Donnie Avery, you're going to stick with him and make him better. But he better toughen up. ...

"(On) defense, to me, other than (Oshiomogho) Atogwe in the back end, I think their secondary's bad. They're not very good at corner. I think the young kid at linebacker (James Laurinaitis) is very good. But you're not very good around him. And then up front, you have really no pressure players to rush the quarterback. So I don't know where you start and you end with the Rams. That's my problem."

5-YEAR RECORD: 20-60



than a fringe player after spending most of his rookie season on the practice squad. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸▸ Bradford's adjustment to the NFL game will be tough enough. Compounding the process is the fact that he will be throwing to a less-than-stellar group of wide receivers. As he enters his third NFL season, Donnie Avery has yet to live up to his status as the first wideout taken in the 2008 draft. Avery has excellent straight-line speed, but still needs to work on his route-running and ability to beat press coverage off the line of scrimmage.

The other starter, Laurent Robinson, was shaping up as the team's go-to receiver before suffering a season-ending injury in Game 3. Robinson has good size and hands, and above-average speed. But like so many members of this receiver corps, durability is an issue. Fourth-round draft choice Mardy Gilyard has a chance to make an immediate impact as a slot receiver.

At tight end, it's debatable whether the Rams have a true starting-caliber player in either Daniel Fells or Billy Bajema. Fells has shown some glimpses of pass-catching ability, and Bajema is a solid blocker. **GRADE: D+**

Offensive line ▸▸ This is one area where the Rams have invested a lot of time, money and draft picks over the past couple offseasons. Jason Smith, the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2009, has a lot to prove this season after a disappointing and injury-plagued rookie campaign. Smith missed half the season because of a knee injury, and then suffered a concussion. He's an aggressive player who showed flashes of being a strong run blocker, but Smith's pass blocking needs a lot of work.

At right tackle, second-round draft pick Rodger Saffold looks to be the favorite after Alex Barron was traded to Dallas in May. If those positions hold after training camp ends, the Rams will have a rookie and a second-year player trying to protect their franchise quarterback.

At center, Jason Brown is a tough and durable performer who uses his size to neutralize most defensive tackles.

DRAFT REPORT

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	1	Sam Bradford	QB	6-4	236	Oklahoma
2	1	Rodger Saffold	OT	6-5	316	Indiana
3	1	Jerome Murphy	CB	6-0	196	South Florida
4	1	Mardy Gilyard	WR	6-0	187	Cincinnati
5	1	Michael Hoomanawanui	TE	6-4	264	Illinois
5	18	Hall Davis	DE	6-4	271	Louisiana-Lafayette
6	1	Fendi Onobun	TE	6-6	252	Houston
6	20	Eugene Sims	DE	6-5	248	West Texas A&M
7	4	Marquis Johnson	CB	5-11	192	Alabama
7	19	George Selvie	DE	6-5	252	South Florida
7	47	Josh Hull	LB	6-3	237	Penn State

Sam Bradford was a smart choice as the No. 1 overall pick, because he has all the tools to develop into a top-flight NFL quarterback. However, he will need time to adjust to a new style of play before starting. **Rodger Saffold** was another good pick in Round 2, though he was not dominating at offensive tackle at Indiana. **Jerome Murphy** has the ball skills to develop into a starting cornerback, while wide receiver **Mardy Gilyard** was a bargain in the fourth round, though he needs to bulk up.

The Rams found a future starter at defensive end in **Hall Davis** if he can gain 20 pounds. **Fendi Onobun** played only one year of football at Arizona after being on the basketball team for four years. He'll make an ideal third tight end. **George Selvie** may be the best value because he has the explosiveness to start at defensive end in the NFL.

JEFF CURRY / US PRESSWIRE

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	0-28	at Seattle Seahawks
09/20	L	7-9	at Washington Redskins
09/27	L	17-36	Green Bay Packers
10/04	L	0-35	at San Fransicso 49ers
10/11	L	10-38	Minnesota Vikings
10/18	L	20-23	at Jacksonville Jaguars
10/25	L	6-42	Indianapolis Colts
11/01	W	17-10	at Detroit Lions
11/15	L	23-28	New Orleans Saints
11/22	L	13-21	Arizona Cardinals
11/29	L	17-27	Seattle Seahawks
12/06	L	9-17	at Chicago Bears
12/13	L	7-47	at Tennessee Titans
12/20	L	13-16	Houston Texans
12/27	L	10-31	at Arizona Cardinals
01/03	L	6-28	San Francisco 49ers

WON 1, LOST 15

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jackson	324	1416	4.4	58	4
Darby	27	152	5.6	51	0
Boller	13	76	5.8	16	0
Ogbonnaya	11	50	4.5	18	0
Gado	14	26	1.9	11	0
Avery	4	30	7.5	15	0
Bulger	8	22	2.8	7	0
Karney	2	8	4.0	8	0
Null	5	6	1.2	3	0
Amendola	3	-2	-0.7	8	0
RAMS	411	1784	4.3	58	4
OPPONENTS	500	2201	4.4	62	24

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jackson	51	322	6.3	38	0
Avery	47	589	12.5	50	5
Amendola	43	326	7.6	25	1
Gibson	34	348	10.2	23	1
McMichael	34	332	9.8	35	1
Burton	25	253	10.1	25	0
Fells	21	273	13.0	36	3
Darby	18	96	5.3	13	0
Robinson	13	167	12.8	45	1
Bajema	8	94	11.8	27	0
Martin	6	99	16.5	33	0
Karney	6	16	2.7	9	0
Gado	3	25	8.3	13	0
Ogbonnaya	1	19	19.0	19	0
Carter	1	6	6.0	6	0
Kent	1	5	5.0	5	0
RAMS	312	2970	9.5	50	12
OPPONENTS	315	3764	11.9	73	22

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Bulger	247	140	1469	5	6
Boller	176	98	899	3	6
Null	119	73	566	3	9
Brown	1	1	36	1	0
RAMS	543	312	2970	12	21
OPPONENTS	491	315	3913	22	8

SACKS RAMS 25, OPPONENTS 54

Little 6.5, Long 5, Hall 4.5, Dahl 2, Laurinaitis 2, Ah You 1, Atogwe 1, Grant 1, Ramsey 1, Ryan 1

Left guard Jacob Bell played heavier and played better last season. Right guard is up in the air with John Greco, Mark Setterstrom, Hank Fraley and Adam Goldberg all candidates for the job. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

All too often last year the Rams got run over on the ground, and then toasted in the secondary. Because of concerns in the defensive backfield, the Rams blitzed less than Spagnuolo's reputation from his days as a defensive coordinator with the New York Giants.

With only modest changes in the front seven over the offseason, it's debatable whether there will be much improvement against the run under coordinator Ken Flajole, unless some young players dramatically upgrade their games.

Defensive line ▸▸ This unit has to show significant improvement against the run and rushing the passer if the defense is to end its woeful ways. The addition of tackle Fred Robbins in free agency should help against the run if the 33-year-old can avoid the injuries that reduced his effectiveness the past couple of seasons.

The other starting tackle, Clifton Ryan, has improved steadily over his three NFL seasons but needs to continue to step up his play. After a slow start as a rookie, Darell Scott showed flashes of power and quickness late last season and could be a valuable rotation player.

At end, the question remains: where is the pass rush? James Hall is a solid, savvy player with a good bull rush, but doesn't have the quickness around the edge to be a consistent force. Chris Long, the No. 2 overall pick in 2008, stepped up his game over the second half of last season and needs to have a breakout year if this unit is to show dramatic improvement. Three ends were drafted in Rounds 5 through 7, and the Rams are hoping one of them—maybe George Selvie—can provide pass-rush help. **GRADE: D+**

Linebackers ▸▸ Although he wore down late in the year, the Rams got everything they were hoping for last season from rookie middle linebacker James Laurinaitis. Smart, instinctive and active, Laurinaitis was always around the ball and is developing into the team's defensive leader. His pass coverage does need work, however, and he occasionally got caught biting on play fakes.

Question marks abound on the flanks, with Laurinaitis surrounded by David Vobora and free-agent pickup Na'il Diggs at outside linebacker. Diggs brings much-needed size to the position and has a reputation as a good run defender. Vobora is a spirited, physical player, but limited athletically.

The depth is suspect as well, with Larry Grant, Chris Chamberlain and K.C. Asiodu having yet to show they are more than fringe players. The Rams acquired former first-round pick Bobby Carpenter from Dallas, and he'll likely back up Laurinaitis.

Other than Diggs, the Rams did next

INSIDE THE HEADSET

STEVE SPAGNUOLO

Spagnuolo is old school. It's all about defense, running the football and the field position game. On offense, the Rams don't take many downfield shots, and it's a conservative approach overall. And he's toned down his risk-taking on defense from when he was the Giants' defensive coordinator. It remains to be seen whether improved talent will lead to a more aggressive approach on either side of the ball.

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	279.4	29
RUSHING	111.5	20
PASSING	167.9	28
SCORING	175	32
PUNT RETURNS	10.7	8
KICK RETURNS	23.2	11
RED ZONE TD %	32.4	31
TOTAL DEFENSE	372.8	29
AGAINST RUSH	137.6	27
AGAINST PASS	235.3	25
POINTS ALLOWED	436	31
INTERCEPTIONS	8	31t
SACKS	25	30
TURNOVER DIFF.	-13	30t

RAMS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Leonard Little** *(1998-2009)* — **87.5**
2. **Kevin Greene** *(1985-92)* — **72.5**
3. **Kevin Carter** *(1995-2000)* — **62.5**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Arizona — SEPT. 12 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 2 @ Oakland — SEPT. 19 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 3 Washington — SEPT. 26 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 4 Seattle — OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 5 @ Detroit — OCT. 10 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 6 San Diego — OCT. 17 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 7 @ Tampa Bay — OCT. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 8 Carolina — OCT. 31 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 9 OPEN DATE

WEEK 10 @ San Francisco — NOV. 14 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 11 Atlanta — NOV. 21 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 12 @ Denver — NOV. 28 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 13 @ Arizona — DEC. 5 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 14 @ New Orleans — DEC. 12 | 4:05 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 15 Kansas City — DEC. 19 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 16 San Francisco — DEC. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE — W / L

WEEK 17 @ Seattle — JAN. 2 | 4:15 — SCORE — W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

to nothing to address this unit in the offseason and the draft, and it may come back to haunt them come September. **GRADE: D**

Secondary ▸▸ This unit was sloppy a year ago, as the Rams struggled to play the aggressive press coverage that is a staple of the St. Louis defense. After re-signing with the team a year ago in free agency, Ron Bartell was disappointing, slowed for much of the season by a thigh injury. And just when rookie Bradley Fletcher was showing promise at the other cornerback spot, he suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 7 against Indianapolis.

The Rams hope Fletcher will be good to go at the start of training camp, but there are no guarantees. Quincy Butler and Justin King were thrown into the fray by necessity a year ago and had some rough moments.

The addition of Kevin Dockery in free agency gives the Rams a nickel back candidate with NFL experience. Third-round draft pick Jerome Murphy is a good fit due to his

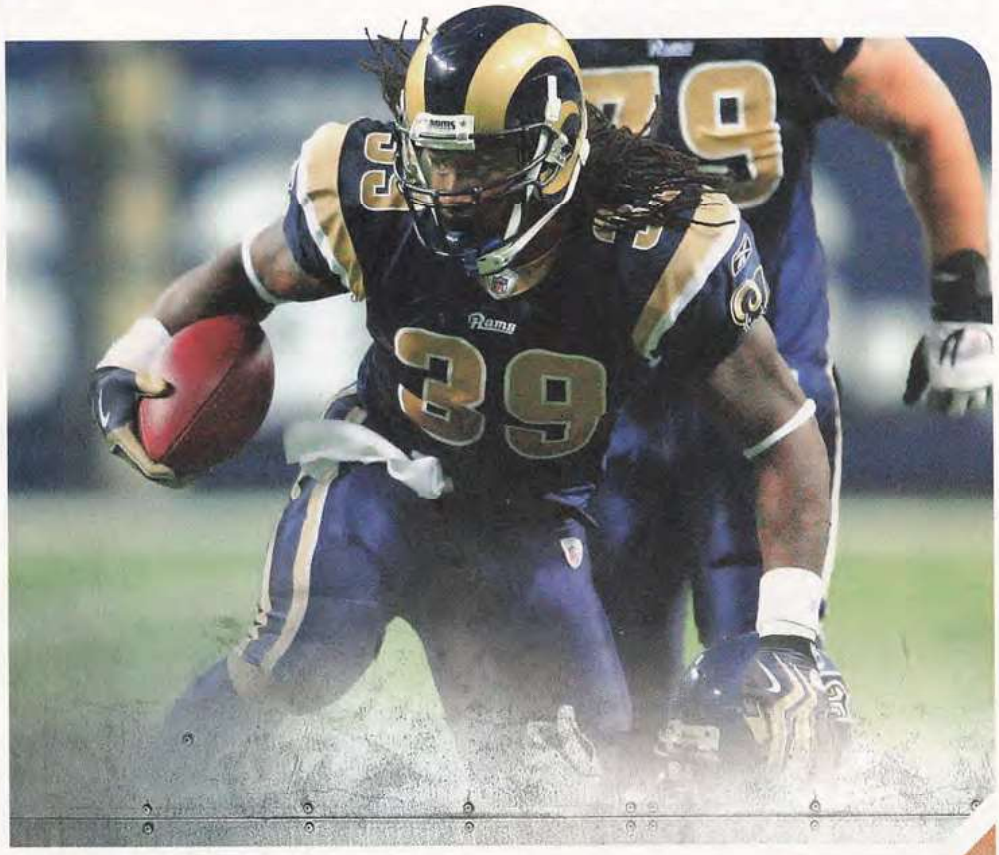
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

QB A.J. Feeley *(FA/Panthers)*, **C Hank Fraley** *(FA/Browns)*, **LB Na'il Diggs** *(FA/Panthers)*, **DT Fred Robbins** *(FA/Giants)*, **CB Kevin Dockery** *(FA/Giants)*, **S Kevin Payne** *(trade/Bears)*, **LB Bobby Carpenter** *(trade/Cowboys)*

SUBTRACTIONS

LB Paris Lenon *(FA/Cardinals)*, **CB Jonathan Wade** *(FA/Lions)*, **QB Kyle Boller** *(FA/Raiders)*, **DE Leonard Little** *(FA)*, **TE Randy McMichael** *(FA)*, **QB Marc Bulger** *(FA)*, **DE Adam Carriker** *(trade/Redskins)*, **OT Alex Barron** *(trade/Cowboys)*



THE BOOK ON ... STEVEN JACKSON

(how a rival sizes him up)

"Steven Jackson levels the playing (field) for the Rams. It's a shame they don't have much around him, but when he's on his game, the Rams at least can hang in there. The guy doesn't have what you'd call breakaway speed, but when he gets to the corner and gets up a head of steam, he's tough to run down. He's a more physical runner than generally given credit for—he moves the pile when he's running between the tackles. ...

He's on the tall side for a running back (6-2), and has kind of an upright running style. So he takes more hard shots than he needs to, which explains why he can get nicked up. But he's more durable than people think. He showed his toughness last season by playing through that back problem. He's been less successful as a receiver lately, simply because teams have been paying better attention to him in the passing game. If the Rams had better receivers, that wouldn't always be the case."

CSM / NEWSCOM

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Feeley, A.J.	QB	6-3	220	05/16/1977	10	Oregon
9 Null, Keith	QB	6-4	220	09/24/1985	2	West Texas A&M
13 Reilly, Mike	QB	6-3	214	01/25/1985	1	Central Washington

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
62 Allen, Roger	G	6-3	326	02/10/1986	2	Missouri Western State
63 Bell, Jacob	G	6-4	295	03/02/1981	7	Miami (OH)
60 Brown, Jason	C	6-3	320	05/05/1983	6	North Carolina
66 Fraley, Hank	C	6-3	310	09/21/1977	11	Robert Morris
73 Goldberg, Adam	T	6-7	318	08/12/1980	8	Wyoming
79 Greco, John	G	6-4	315	03/24/1985	3	Toledo
65 Lewis, Mark	G	6-3	305	07/17/1985	1	Oregon
68 McKee, Ryan	T	6-6	291	11/04/1986	1	Southern Miss
67 Miller, Drew	C	6-5	303	07/06/1985	2	Florida
66 Setterstrom, Mark	C	6-4	314	03/03/1984	5	Minnesota
77 Smith, Jason	T	6-5	306	04/30/1986	2	Baylor
64 Trautwein, Phil	T	6-6	308	04/15/1986	2	Florida
61 Young, Eric	T	6-3	305	11/22/1983	2	Tennessee

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Darby, Kenneth	RB	5-10	211	12/26/1982	3	Alabama
39 Jackson, Steven	RB	6-2	231	07/22/1983	7	Oregon State
44 Karney, Mike	RB	5-11	255	07/06/1981	7	Arizona State
45 Massey, Chris	RB	6-0	245	08/21/1979	9	Marshall
22 Ogbonnaya, Chris	RB	6-0	220	05/20/1986	2	Texas

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
16 Amendola, Danny	WR	5-11	186	11/02/1985	2	Texas Tech
17 Avery, Donnie	WR	5-11	184	06/12/1984	3	Houston
47 Bajema, Billy	TE	6-4	256	10/31/1982	6	Oklahoma State
18 Brown, Travis	WR	6-2	198	07/26/1986	1	New Mexico
14 Burton, Keenan	WR	6-0	202	10/29/1984	3	Kentucky
49 Butler, Eric	TE	6-2	255	09/13/1984	1	Mississippi State
46 Fells, Daniel	TE	6-4	270	09/23/1983	4	UC Davis
83 Foster, Brooks	WR	6-1	204	04/09/1986	1	North Carolina
11 Gibson, Brandon	WR	6-1	206	08/13/1987	2	Washington State
84 Johnson, Darcy	TE	6-5	267	02/11/1983	4	UCF
87 Kent, Jordan	WR	6-4	219	07/24/1984	4	Oregon
Moore, Nick	WR	6-4	188	06/25/1986	1	Toledo
19 Robinson, Laurent	WR	6-2	194	05/20/1985	4	Illinois State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
94 Adeyanju, Victor	DE	6-4	280	02/11/1983	5	Indiana
98 Ah You, C.J.	DE	6-4	275	07/07/1982	2	Oklahoma
93 Bradwell, Chris	DT	6-4	280	12/17/1983	1	Troy
65 Conover, Sean	DE	6-5	275	07/31/1984	3	Bucknell
69 Douzable, Leger	DT	6-4	305	05/31/1986	2	UCF
71 Gibson, Gary	DT	6-3	285	05/05/1982	5	Rutgers
96 Hall, James	DE	6-2	280	02/04/1977	11	Michigan
72 Long, Chris	DE	6-3	263	03/28/1985	3	Virginia
99 Ramsey, LaJuan	DT	6-3	300	03/19/1984	4	USC
98 Robbins, Fred	DT	6-4	317	03/25/1977	11	Wake Forest
95 Ryan, Clifton	DT	6-3	310	02/18/1984	4	Michigan State
97 Scott, Darell	DT	6-3	312	03/15/1986	2	Clemson
76 Wyche, James	DE	6-5	279	04/19/1982	5	Syracuse

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Atogwe, Oshiomogho	S	5-11	210	06/23/1981	6	Stanford
24 Bartell, Ron	CB	6-1	205	02/22/1982	6	Howard
30 Brown, Marcus	CB	6-2	200	04/02/1986	1	McNeese State
37 Butler, James	S	6-3	215	09/07/1982	6	Georgia Tech
36 Butler, Quincy	CB	6-1	190	11/25/1983	3	TCU
43 Dahl, Craig	S	6-1	211	06/07/1985	4	North Dakota State
35 Dockery, Kevin	CB	5-8	188	01/08/1984	5	Mississippi State
32 Fletcher, Bradley	CB	6-2	196	06/25/1986	2	Iowa
25 Gorrer, Danny	CB	6-0	173	06/01/1986	2	Texas A&M
31 King, Justin	CB	5-11	188	05/11/1987	3	Penn State
23 Parks, Cord	CB	5-10	178	11/12/1986	1	Northeastern
27 Roach, David	S	6-2	215	08/09/1985	2	TCU

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Asiodu, K.C.	LB	6-2	225	11/24/1986	2	Central Oklahoma
Carpenter, Bobby	LB	6-2	249	08/01/1983	5	Ohio State
57 Chamberlain, Chris	LB	6-1	230	09/30/1985	3	Tulsa
53 Diggs, Na'il	LB	6-4	240	07/08/1978	11	Ohio State
54 Douglas, Dominic	LB	6-1	229	01/13/1987	2	Mississippi State
59 Grant, Larry	LB	6-1	235	02/16/1985	2	Ohio State
55 Laurinaitis, James	LB	6-2	244	12/03/1986	2	Ohio State
58 Vobora, David	LB	6-1	238	04/08/1986	3	Idaho

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Brown, Josh	K	6-0	212	04/29/1979	8	Nebraska
5 Jones, Donnie	P	6-2	222	07/05/1980	7	LSU

» STEVE SPAGNUOLO, *Head coach*
Pat Shurmur, offensive coordinator; **Ken Flajole**, defensive coordinator; **Tom McMahon**, special teams coordinator; **Steve Loney**, offensive line; **Sylvester Croom**, running backs; **Frank Leonard**, tight ends; **Nolan Cromwell**, wide receivers; **Richard Curl**, assistant head coach/quarterbacks; **Clayton Lopez**, secondary/corners; **Andre Curtis**, secondary/safeties; **Paul Ferraro**, linebackers; **Brendan Daly**, defensive line

BEN LIEBENBERG / AP

size and aggressive style of play and could compete for playing time early.

At free safety, Oshiomogho Atogwe skipped most of the team's offseason program after being given a low tender as a restricted free agent. His leadership was missed, even in the spring. Strong safety James Butler was a disappointment in '09 after signing as a free agent from the Giants, missing tackles and blowing some assignments. The third safety, Craig Dahl, has decent speed and range. **GRADE: D+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Once again, St. Louis has one of the best kicking tandems in punter Donnie Jones and kicker Josh Brown. Under special teams coach Tom McMahon, Jones made a conscious effort on directional punting, which reduced return yardage a year ago. Brown has a strong leg and earned a reputation as a clutch field goal kicker. But he was erratic at times a year ago and needs to be more consistent in 2010.

Danny Amendola was respectable as a punt and kickoff returner a year ago, but the addition of Gilyard should upgrade the return game. Gilyard has more speed and elusiveness, returning four kickoffs and one punt for touchdowns during his final two seasons in college. **GRADE: C+**

BOTTOM LINE

Despite limited resources to spend in free agency due to the franchise being in the midst of an ownership change, the Rams did enough to improve the talent level on one of the league's worst rosters. The team had a solid draft, getting good value in each of its picks in the first four rounds.

But even with a schedule that looks softer on paper than the '09 version, it's hard to see this team winning more than a few games unless a lot of the young returning players enjoy breakout seasons.

And a 2-14 or 3-13 campaign will put lots of heat on G.M. Billy Devaney and Spagnuolo.

FANTASY SPIN
www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Don't buy into the hype for Sam Bradford in non-keeper leagues. St. Louis' offensive line and wide receivers need time to jell with him, and rookie QBs are often disappointments in fantasy.

BUY
Steven Jackson
RB

SELL
Keenan Burton
RB

SLEEPER
Mardy Gilyard
WR

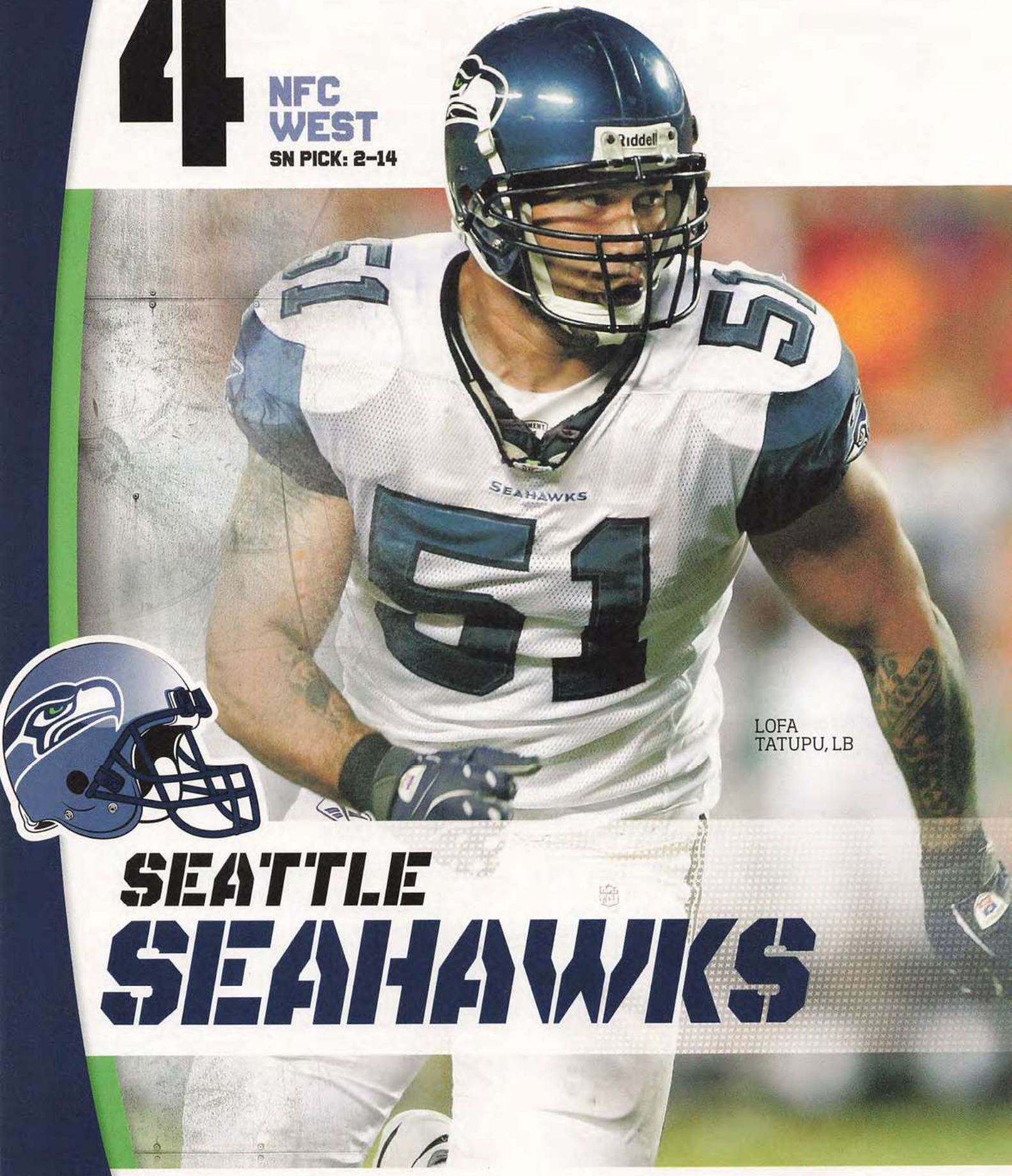
68
FINAL GRADE

STEADY
STOCK REPORT

4

NFC WEST

SN PICK: 2-14



LOFA TATUPU, LB

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

'Hawks hope new leaders will translate into stability

By Danny O'Neil, *Seattle Times*

The Seahawks won't be the same.

That doesn't mean they'll be any better than last year, when they were a 5-11 afterthought in the NFL.

But Seattle will be different, as the franchise begins its most severe overhaul in a decade with a new coach in Pete Carroll and new general manager in John Schneider.

Starting over looks to be a good thing for Seattle, which let a once-potent offense age, atrophy and erode to the point that the team finished with just 280 points in 2009—the franchise's fewest since 1993. Meanwhile, the defense has not performed up to the investment the Seahawks made in terms of draft picks and free agents.

Enter Carroll, twice fired in the NFL but epically successful at USC. He was hired to remake the franchise around one philosophy: his.

OFFENSE

Offensive coordinator Jeremy Bates' NFL indoctrination came under Jon Gruden in Tampa Bay, but Seattle's offense will look more like what Mike Shanahan ran in Denver in everything from terminology to the ground game.

The passing game will influence the quick rollouts and quarter bootlegs that used to be a Bronco trademark, while the running game will feature the one-cut-and-go discipline that once allowed Denver to swap out 1,000-yard rushers as if it were changing tires.

Quarterbacks ▸▸ For the first time since 2002, Matt Hasselbeck faces competition at quarterback after Seattle acquired Charlie Whitehurst.

Whitehurst's acquisition was puzzling. In an offseason in which Donovan McNabb was traded within the NFC East and former starters such as Jake Delhomme, Derek Anderson and Brady Quinn became available, the Seahawks opted to give up draft position and about $8 million over two years to acquire Whitehurst, the Chargers' No. 3 quarterback who has never attempted a regular-season pass.

Seattle sees him as a potential successor to Hasselbeck, who turns 35 in September and has one year left on his contract and a history of injuries.

Hasselbeck is just three years removed from his most prolific season, when he passed for 3,966 yards and earned his third Pro Bowl selection. But that was two coaches and one back injury ago. If either he or the Seahawks struggle this season, expect the team to turn the page and try Whitehurst. **GRADE: B-**

Running backs ▸▸ The Seahawks have drafted three fullbacks over the past five years and just one running back.

In that time, the Seahawks have re-signed an league MVP in Shaun Alexander, tried out a potential Hall of Famer in Edgerrin James and added free agents in Julius Jones and T.J. Duckett. And after all that, Seattle's leader in rushing TDs last season was Justin Forsett, a 2008 seventh-round pick considered slow by NFL standards.

At USC, Carroll made the habit of stockpiling talent in the backfield and keeping his runners hungry, so expect Seattle to take a power-in-numbers approach. That began on draft weekend, when Carroll acquired one of his former Trojans in LenDale White. The Seahawks then added Leon Washington, and the hope is both will add punch to the ground attack.

New offensive line coach Alex Gibbs is considered the NFL's dean of zone blocking in large part because of what he accomplished with Denver's ground

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

JUSTIN FORSETT — **RB**

Forsett was a seventh-round pick in 2008, but new Seahawks offensive line coach Alex Gibbs made a habit of turning late-round picks (such as Terrell Davis) into 1,000-yard rushers in Denver. Forsett's running style appears perfectly suited for the Seahawks' zone-rushing game.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Matt Hasselbeck Charlie Whitehurst
FB	Owen Schmitt Ryan Powdrell
RB	Justin Forsett LenDale White
LT	Russell Okung Ray Willis
LG	Mike Gibson Ben Hamilton
C	Chris Spencer Steve Vallos
RG	Max Unger Mansfield Wrotto
RT	Sean Locklear Ray Willis
TE	John Carlson Chris Baker
WR	T.J. Houshmandzadeh Ben Obomanu
WR	Deion Branch Golden Tate
	DEFENSE
DE	Lawrence Jackson E.J. Wilson
DT	Brandon Mebane Craig Terrill
DT	Colin Cole Red Bryant
DE	Chris Clemons Nick Reed
SLB	Leroy Hill David Hawthorne
MLB	Lofa Tatupu David Hawthorne
WLB	Aaron Curry Will Herring
LCB	Marcus Trufant Kelly Jennings
SS	Jordan Babineaux Kam Chancellor
FS	Earl Thomas Jamar Adams
RCB	Josh Wilson Walter Thurmond
	SPECIALISTS
K	Olindo Mare
P	Jon Ryan
KR	Leon Washington
PR	Justin Forsett
LS	Pat MacDonald

2009 RECORD
OVERALL: 5-11 HOME: 4-4

ONLINE
www.sportingnews.com/nfl/teams/seahawks
www.seahawks.com

STADIUM
Qwest Field
Capacity: 67,000 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 888-NFL-HAWK
Training Camp: Seahawks Training Facility, Kirkland, Wash.; 425-827-9777

OPPOSITE PAGE: WD / ICON SMI

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Seahawks)

"Matt Hasselbeck can play two more years definitely, and you kind of feel for him because his whole career, he was in one offense. He had it down cold, and now Seattle has changed that offense on him twice in two years. ...

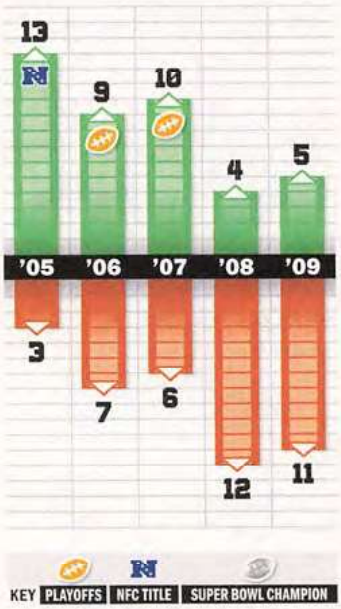
"For years, Seattle didn't give the offense much of anything in the draft. The tight end, John Carlson, is the only playmaker the Seahawks have chosen over the past couple of years. ...

"Among the receivers, you could say the best guy got away in Nate Burleson, but he hasn't always been able to be trusted for precise routes. ...

"From an outsider looking in, their drafts have been pathetic since 2006. How smart do you have to be, knowing you need to get a backup for Walter Jones? That needed to start maybe three years ago and definitely by two years ago. Now, they have to address it."

RINGTHEBELL.z on Archive.org

5-YEAR RECORD: 41-39



game. In a five-season period from 1998 to 2002, the Broncos had four different players author 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

GRADE: D

Receivers ▸▸ Seattle has spent millions on veteran receivers, signing Nate Burleson, Deion Branch and T.J. Houshmandzadeh to large contracts over the past four years.

And for all that money, Seattle still has yet to find a true No. 1 wideout.

Now, Seattle's top receiver in yards per catch last year is gone after Burleson left for Detroit on the first day of free agency. Branch remains on the team even though he's caught more than 50 passes in just one of his four seasons with the Seahawks. That's hardly what Seattle had in mind when it traded a first-round pick to acquire him in 2006, and he'll be pushed for a starting spot by second-round pick Golden Tate out of Notre Dame.

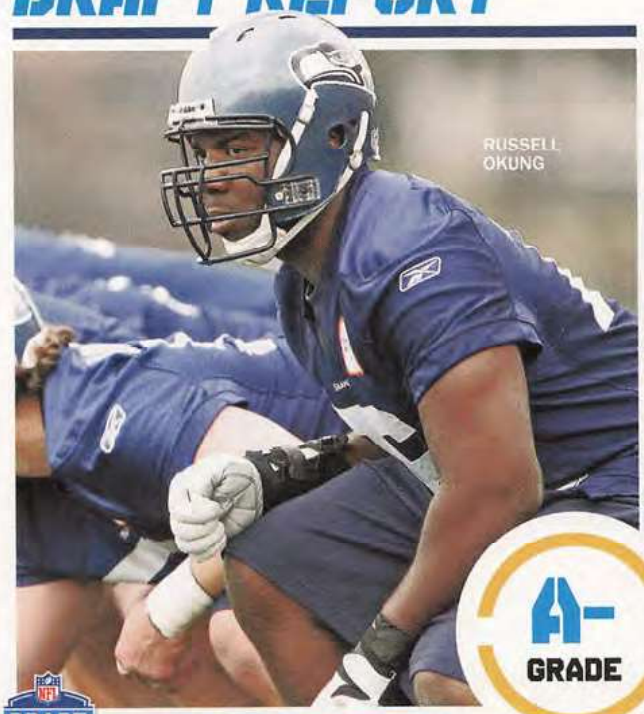
Houshmandzadeh led Seattle with 79 catches last season and while he's physical and tough, he lacks the speed to be a downfield threat or accumulate yards after the catch. Deon Butler, a third-round pick last year, has speed, but he's also small.

Tight end John Carlson is one of the only bright spots looking ahead. He has caught more than 50 passes in each of his first two NFL seasons in the league, and the acquisition of Chris Baker as a backup will free up Carlson to be utilized in the two tight-end sets Seattle is expected to employ frequently. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▸▸ Seattle is unsettled up front, and not just because the Seahawks used six different starting lines in the first nine games last season. They also started four different players at left tackle, which is arguably the most important position on the offensive line.

So with the sixth overall pick, Seattle drafted Russell Okung, who was widely considered the top offensive lineman in the draft. Look for Okung to be immediately slotted in the left-tackle slot.

DRAFT REPORT



GRADE

▸▸ 2010 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	6	Russell Okung	OT	6-5	307	Oklahoma State
1	14	Earl Thomas	CB	5-10	202	Texas
2	28	Golden Tate	WR	5-10	199	Notre Dame
4	13	Walter Thurmond	CB	5-11	189	Oregon
4	29	E.J. Wilson	DE	6-3	286	North Carolina
5	2	Kam Chancellor	S	6-3	231	Virginia Tech
6	16	Anthony McCoy	TE	6-5	259	USC
7	29	Dexter Davis	LB	6-2	244	Arizona State
7	38	Jameson Konz	TE	6-4	234	Kent State

With Walter Jones retiring, the Seahawks needed to acquire a left tackle to fill his shoes, and **Russell Okung** has the size and athleticism to handle the position with ease.

In **Earl Thomas**, the Seahawks grabbed one of the best safeties in the draft. He'll make big plays in pass coverage and in run support, allowing the Seahawks' defense to be more versatile in coverage, especially when a three-receiver set is thrown their way.

Wide receiver **Golden Tate** was a good value in the second round, as he should add big-play ability to the offense. **E.J. Wilson** is an athletic defensive end who has the tools be a strongside starting end in Seattle's 4-3 scheme.

Safety **Kam Chancellor** and tight end **Anthony McCoy** were great developmental prospects from the fifth and sixth rounds, respectively. Chancellor is well built and could start next to Thomas in a season or two, while McCoy will start once he matures.

JOE NICHOLSON / US PRESSWIRE

2009 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	28-0	St. Louis Rams
09/20	L	10-23	at San Francisco 49ers
09/27	L	19-25	Chicago Bears
10/04	L	17-34	at Indianapolis Colts
10/11	W	41-0	Jacksonville Jaguars
10/18	L	3-27	Arizona Cardinals
11/01	L	17-38	at Dallas Cowboys
11/08	W	32-20	Detroit Lions
11/15	L	20-31	at Arizona Cardinals
11/22	L	9-35	at Minnesota Vikings
11/29	W	27-17	at St. Louis Rams
12/06	W	20-17	San Fransisco 49ers
12/13	L	7-34	at Houston Texans
12/20	L	7-24	Tampa Bay Bucaneers
12/27	L	10-48	at Green Bay Packers
01/03	L	13-17	Tennessee Titans

WON 5, LOST 11

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jones	177	663	3.7	62	2
Forsett	114	619	5.4	35	4
James	46	125	2.7	10	0
Hasselbeck	26	119	4.6	23	0
Rankin	8	36	4.5	12	0
Griffith	4	6	1.5	3	0
Burleson	2	4	2.0	2	0
Wallace	16	2	0.1	10	1
Ryan	1	0	0.0	0	0
Branch	1	-8	-8.0	-8	0
SEAHAWKS	395	1566	4.0	62	7
OPPONENTS	428	1776	4.1	80	17

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Houshmandzadeh	79	911	11.5	53	3
Burleson	63	812	12.9	44	3
Carlson	51	574	11.3	42	7
Branch	45	437	9.7	35	2
Forsett	41	350	8.5	47	1
Jones	35	232	6.6	49	2
Griffith	19	118	6.2	25	1
Butler	15	175	11.7	32	0
Schmitt	6	21	3.5	10	1
Rankin	5	33	6.6	14	0
Obomanu	4	41	10.3	12	0
James	3	19	6.3	7	0
Owens	3	16	5.3	8	0
Wallace	2	29	14.5	24	0
Morrah	1	3	3.0	3	0
SEAHAWKS	372	3771	10.1	53	20
OPPONENTS	374	3927	10.5	64	27

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Hasselbeck	488	293	3029	17	17
Wallace	120	78	700	3	2
Ryan	1	1	42	0	0
SEAHAWKS	609	372	3771	20	19
OPPONENTS	568	374	4112	27	13

SACKS SEAHAWKS 28, OPPONENTS 46

Kerney 5, Jackson 4.5, Hawthorne 4, Tapp 2.5, Curry 2, Redding 2, Babineaux 1.5, Mebane 1.5, Hill 1, Reed 1, Tatupu 1, Terrill 1, Wilson 1

AI WIRE / NEWSCOM

Seattle has committed to the zone-blocking system espoused by Gibbs. He's a coach as salty as he is demanding, and the Seahawks will have a line that is quicker and more aggressive and relies upon linemen to make the right decision.

The personnel juggling has already begun. Sean Locklear is going from left to right tackle. Max Unger finished his rookie season at center, but moved back to right guard. Former first-round pick Chris Spencer will get a chance at center, while Mike Gibson has a shot to start at left guard. **GRADE: D**

DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator is one of the only positions that didn't change on Seattle's coaching staff. Casey Bradley is a Monte Kiffin disciple and was retained by Carroll, who is showing flexibility in his approach.

The Seahawks will use what looks like a 3-4 scheme at times, employing what is being called the "elephant" pass rusher. It's essentially a hybrid linebacker/defensive end who lines up in a two-point stance and comes from different angles and gaps along the line. So while the Seahawks will retain the principles of the 4-3 defense, the alignment will look different.

Defensive line ▸▸ The biggest change in Seattle's defensive line won't be the personnel.

It will be the way its personnel lines up.

Seattle will deploy Chris Clemons in that hybrid position initially. Clemons is a pass-rushing specialist acquired from Philadelphia in March who has totaled seven sacks over the previous two seasons. The question is whether that's enough to stimulate a pass rush that was dormant at the end of the 2009 campaign.

There will be other new personnel on the line, as backup defensive end Darryl Tapp was traded to Philadelphia, Cory Redding left for Baltimore as a free agent and Patrick Kerney retired after undergoing offseason surgery for the fourth consecutive year.

Lawrence Jackson, a first-round pick in 2008, has been strong against the run but failed to make much of a dent as a pass rusher last season. E.J. Wilson, a fourth-round pick, could see some time at end early on.

Seattle's run defense has been surprisingly stout, with tackles Brandon Mebane and Colin Cole holding their ground. The Seahawks allowed just two players to surpass 100 rushing yards last season. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸▸ Can Lofa Tatupu regain the Pro Bowl form of his first three seasons in the league? And can Aaron Curry live up to expectations after his play waned over the course of his rookie year?

Those are the two questions facing a unit that is the Seahawks' undisputed strength. Tatupu mans the middle, while Leroy Hill and Curry are among the league's fastest outside linebackers.

But Tatupu, Hill and Curry have yet to play a full game together, as Hill suffered an injury to his groin muscle

INSIDE THE HEADSET

PETE CARROLL

Carroll has one gear: overdrive. He talks fast, his teams practice fast and he wants his defense to play fast. His confidence translates to aggressive play-calling and a willingness to go for it on fourth down. The question is, will Carroll tone that down in the NFL, where his team won't have a prohibitive edge in overall talent as it did at USC?

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	316.8	21
RUSHING	97.9	26
PASSING	218.9	15
SCORING	280	25
PUNT RETURNS	7.5	19
KICK RETURNS	21.9	21
RED ZONE TD %	39.6	30
TOTAL DEFENSE	356.4	24
AGAINST RUSH	111.0	15
AGAINST PASS	245.4	30
POINTS ALLOWED	390	25t
INTERCEPTIONS	13	22t
SACKS	28	26t
TURNOVER DIFF.	-8	26t

SEAHAWKS' *(official stats for sacks began in 1982)* ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

1. **Jacob Green** *(1981-91)* — **97.5**
2. **Michael Sinclair** *(1992-2001)* — **73.5**
3. **Jeff Bryant** *(1982-93)* — **63.0**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 San Francisco
SEPT. 12 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 2 @ Denver
SEPT. 19 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 3 San Diego
SEPT. 26 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 4 @ St. Louis
OCT. 3 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 5 OPEN DATE

WEEK 6 @ Chicago
OCT. 17 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 7 Arizona
OCT. 24 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 8 @ Oakland
OCT. 31 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 9 N.Y. Giants
NOV. 7 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 10 @ Arizona
NOV. 14 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 11 @ New Orleans
NOV. 21 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 12 Kansas City
NOV. 28 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 13 Carolina
DEC. 5 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 14 @ San Francisco
DEC. 12 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 15 Atlanta
DEC. 19 | 4:05 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 16 @ Tampa Bay
DEC. 26 | 1:00 — SCORE (W) (L)

WEEK 17 St. Louis
JAN. 2 | 4:15 — SCORE (W) (L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

in the season opener and Tatupu went down with a torn pectoral muscle during Hill's first game back.

Tatupu's absence in the final 10 games hurt the development of Curry, whose level of play declined after a strong first month. Curry's only two sacks of the season occurred in the first five games.

Seattle does have depth at this position. David Hawthorne filled in admirably first for Hill and later for Tatupu. Hawthorne, an undrafted free agent in 2008, totaled 16 tackles and intercepted a pass in his first NFL start. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸▸ The Seahawks allowed more passing yards than all but two teams in the NFL last season, but it's hard to pin all the blame for that on the secondary given that Seattle's pass rush was mostly nonexistent.

Cornerback Marcus Trufant, a Pro Bowler in 2007, was expected to be one of the strong points of the defense with his coverage skills and sure tackling. But he missed the first six games last season because of a disk injury in his back. Fourth-round pick Walter Thurmond

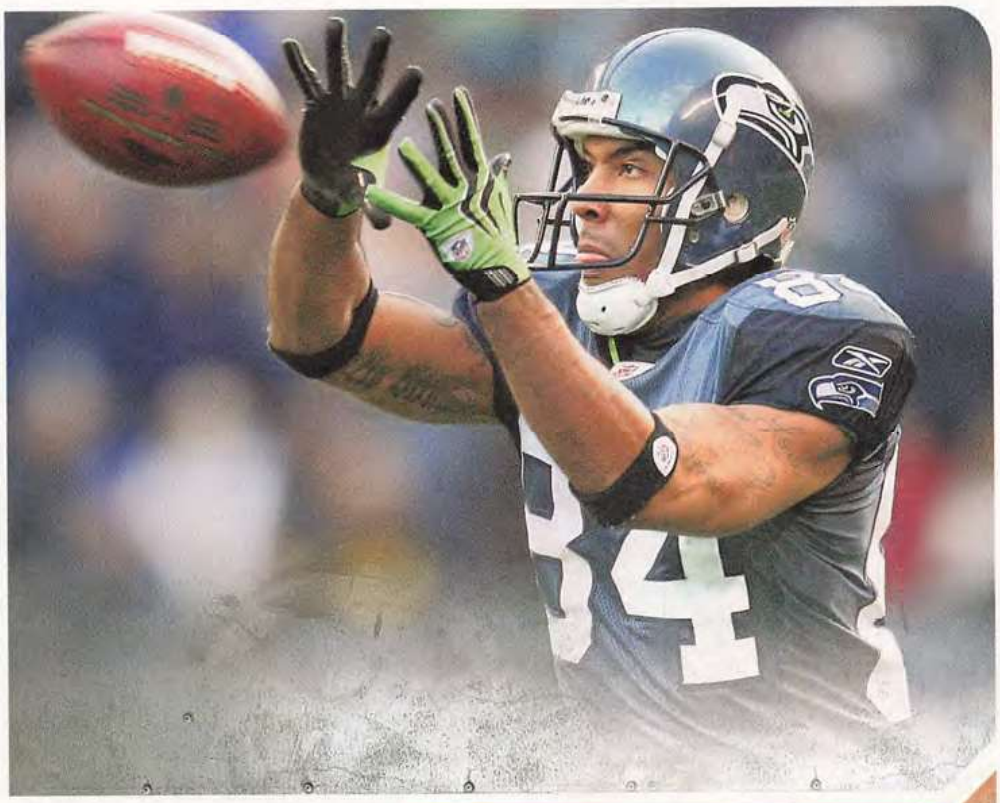
OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

RB Leon Washington *(trade/Jets)*, **RB LenDale White** *(trade/Titans)*, **DT Kevin Vickerson** *(trade/Titans)*, **S Quinton Teal** *(FA/Panthers)*, **G Ben Hamilton** *(FA/Broncos)*, **DE Robert Henderson** *(trade/Lions)*, **TE Chris Baker** *(FA/Patriots)*, **LB Chris Clemons** *(trade/Eagles)*, **QB Charlie Whitehurst** *(trade/Chargers)*, **WR Sean Morey** *(FA/Cardinals)*

SUBTRACTIONS

WR Nate Burleson *(FA/Lions)*, **DT Cory Redding** *(FA/Ravens)*, **QB Seneca Wallace** *(trade/Browns)*, **G Rob Sims** *(trade/Lions)*, **S Deon Grant** *(FA/Giants)*, **DE Darryl Tapp** *(trade/Eagles)*, **FB Justin Griffith** *(FA)*, **DE Patrick Kerney** *(retired)*, **OT Walter Jones** *(retired)*



OTTO GREULE JR / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ... T.J. HOUSHMANDZADEH

(how a rival sizes him up)

"T.J. Houshmandzadeh is a No. 2 receiver who got overpaid to be a No. 1 with a contract that should have never happened. He can beat an off corner, someone who's playing off without help, because his routes are so good, but he can't separate with speed. You saw that last year when teams started applying press coverage. He can't get by it. ...

"Where he really excels is the one-on-one ball. He just has a knack for finding a way, fighting for the ball and his hands are so good. Just don't overthrow him because he's not going to go and run underneath it. ...

"One of the big issues is that there was no one who really threatened the defense last year. There wasn't that receiver that teams were afraid would get behind them. Nate Burleson filled that at times, but there was also a chunk of time where he disappeared, and now he's gone to Detroit."

ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
8 Hasselbeck, Matt	QB	6-4	225	09/25/1975	12	Boston College
14 Teel, Mike	QB	6-3	230	01/06/1986	2	Rutgers
6 Whitehurst, Charlie	QB	6-4	220	08/06/1982	5	Clemson

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
61 Erickson, Mitch	G	6-6	290	05/14/1985	1	South Dakota State
64 Gibson, Mike	G	6-3	305	11/18/1985	3	California
50 Hamilton, Ben	G	6-4	290	08/18/1977	10	Minnesota
71 Jones, Walter	T	6-5	325	01/19/1974	14	Florida State
75 Locklear, Sean	T	6-4	308	05/29/1981	7	N.C. State
65 Spencer, Chris	C	6-3	312	03/28/1982	6	Ole Miss
60 Unger, Max	C	6-5	309	04/14/1986	2	Oregon
69 Vallos, Steve	C	6-3	312	12/28/1983	4	Wake Forest
74 Willis, Ray	T	6-6	315	08/13/1982	6	Florida State
66 Wrotto, Mansfield	G	6-3	320	10/12/1984	4	Georgia Tech

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20 Forsett, Justin	RB	5-8	194	10/14/1985	3	California
35 Ganther, Quinton	RB	5-9	214	07/15/1984	3	Utah
22 Jones, Julius	RB	5-10	208	08/14/1981	7	Notre Dame
43 Powdrell, Ryan	RB	5-11	260	12/20/1983	2	USC
40 Rankin, Louis	RB	6-1	205	05/04/1985	2	Washington
35 Schmitt, Owen	RB	6-2	247	02/13/1985	3	West Virginia
30 Washington, Leon	RB	5-8	195	08/29/1982	5	Florida State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
86 Baker, Chris	TE	6-3	258	11/18/1979	9	Michigan State
83 Branch, Deion	WR	5-9	192	07/18/1979	9	Louisville
11 Butler, Deon	WR	5-10	182	01/04/1986	2	Penn State
89 Carlson, John	TE	6-5	251	05/12/1984	3	Notre Dame
16 Carter, Patrick	WR	6-3	215	02/06/1985	1	Louisville
18 Hass, Mike	WR	6-1	208	01/02/1983	3	Oregon State
84 Houshmandzadeh, T.J.	WR	6-2	203	09/26/1977	10	Oregon State
19 Jones, Mike	WR	6-4	203	09/09/1986	1	Arizona State
82 Martin, Ruvell	WR	6-4	220	08/10/1982	5	Saginaw Valley
17 Morey, Sean	WR	5-11	193	02/26/1976	9	Brown
88 Morrah, Cameron	TE	6-3	244	03/18/1987	2	California
87 Obomanu, Ben	WR	6-0	206	10/30/1983	5	Auburn
47 Pociask, Jason	TE	6-3	259	02/09/1983	3	Wisconsin
1 Williams, Mike	WR	6-5	242	01/04/1984	4	USC
15 Williams, Reggie	WR	6-4	212	05/17/1983	6	Washington

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
79 Bryant, Red	DT	6-4	318	04/18/1984	3	Texas A&M
91 Clemons, Chris	DE	6-2	240	10/30/1981	7	Georgia
90 Cole, Colin	DT	6-1	330	06/24/1980	8	Iowa
72 Henderson, Robert	DE	6-3	283	11/09/1983	1	Southern Miss
95 Jackson, Lawrence	DE	6-4	270	08/30/1985	3	USC
62 MacDonald, Patrick	DT	6-2	265	02/20/1982	1	Alberta (Canada)
92 Mebane, Brandon	DT	6-1	301	01/15/1985	4	California
48 Overton, Matt	DE	5-11	250	07/06/1985	1	Western Washington
98 Reed, Nick	DE	6-1	247	09/01/1987	2	Oregon
93 Terrill, Craig	DT	6-2	295	06/27/1980	7	Purdue
94 Vickerson, Kevin	DT	6-5	305	01/08/1983		Michigan State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25 Adams, Jamar	S	6-2	214	11/29/1985	2	Michigan
27 Babineaux, Jordan	S	6-0	206	08/31/1982	7	Southern Arkansas
30 Cox, Kennard	CB	6-0	197	08/17/1985	2	Pittsburgh
21 Jennings, Kelly	CB	5-11	180	11/30/1982	5	Miami (FL)
34 Lewis, Roy	CB	5-10	190	05/19/1985	2	Washington
23 Trufant, Marcus	CB	5-11	197	12/25/1980	8	Washington State
41 Willingham, DeAngelo	CB	6-0	200	01/15/1987	1	Tennessee
26 Wilson, Josh	CB	5-9	192	03/11/1985	4	Maryland

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59 Curry, Aaron	LB	6-2	254	04/06/1986	2	Wake Forest
55 Foley, Ricky	LB	6-2	245	06/09/1982	1	York
57 Hawthorne, David	LB	6-0	240	05/14/1985	3	TCU
54 Herring, Will	LB	6-3	235	08/28/1983	4	Auburn
53 Heygood, Anthony	LB	6-2	230	04/03/1986	1	Purdue
56 Hill, Leroy	LB	6-1	238	09/14/1982	6	Clemson
50 McCoy, Matt	LB	6-0	235	10/14/1982	6	San Diego State
51 Tatupu, Lofa	LB	6-0	242	11/15/1982	6	USC

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
1 Malone, Tom	P	6-0	205	03/29/1984	1	USC
10 Mare, Olindo	K	5-11	190	06/06/1973	15	Syracuse
9 Ryan, Jon	P	6-0	222	11/26/1981	5	Regina

» PETE CARROLL, *Head coach*
Jeremy Bates, offensive coordinator; **Casey Bradley,** defensive coordinator; **Brian Schneider,** special teams coordinator; **Jeff Ulbrich,** special teams assistant; **Luke Butkus,** quality control/offensive line; **Alex Gibbs,** offensive line; **Art Valero,** assistant offensive line; **Sherman Smith,** running backs; **Pat McPherson,** tight ends; **Kippy Brown,** wide receivers; **Jedd Fisch,** quarterbacks; **Jerry Gray,** secondary; **Kris Richard,** assistant secondary; **Ken Norton Jr.,** linebackers; **Dan Quinn,** defensive line

could push Josh Wilson at the other corner spot.

Carroll is a coach known for the play of his safeties, whether it was Lawyer Milloy becoming a Pro Bowler for the first time in New England or the strong play of Troy Polamalu and Taylor Mays at USC. In Seattle, he's starting nearly from scratch, and Earl Thomas, the 14th overall pick, has a chance to be the starting free safety from Day 1, while Jordan Babineaux is back at strong safety. **GRADE: D**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Two of Seattle's top players last season were kicker Olindo Mare and punter Jon Ryan, both of whom were re-signed in the offseason. Mare made a franchise-record 21 consecutive field goal attempts to close out the season, and the depth of his kickoffs is a significant advantage for Seattle's coverage team.

The question is who will be snapping the ball. The Seahawks have managed to bring Jeff Robinson out of retirement at some point in each of the past three seasons, but he is now 40. Seattle signed Pat MacDonald as the new lead candidate from the CFL.

The acquistion of Washington gives Seattle a real threat at kickoff returner, while Forsett is the top punt return man after Burleson's departure. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

The Seahawks took a swan dive off the cliff of relevancy in 2008, and two years later, they still haven't resurfaced.

Seattle's decision to eschew free-agency fixes may play dividends down the road, but right now, the Seahawks have too much work on both the offensive and defensive lines to imagine this team is going to bounce back this season.

With Carroll, though, Seattle has a coach who's intimately familiar with collegiate players, which should give the Seahawks an edge in restocking what is a fairly barren roster.

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FINAL GRADE

DOWN
STOCK REPORT

FANTASY SPIN

www.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

Matt Hasselbeck's career is almost running on fumes, and he needs a good start to hold off Charlie Whitehurst. Drafting tackle Russell Okung should help Hasselbeck's protection.

BUY
LenDale White
RB

SELL
Julius Jones
RB

SLEEPER
John Carlson
TE

AFC '09 stats

Maurice Jones-Drew

TEAM SCORING

TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	2PTA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
San Diego	51	17	29	5	50	51	0	0	32	35	1	454
New England	50	19	28	3	47	47	1	3	26	31	0	427
Indianapolis	53	16	34	3	50	51	0	2	16	20	0	416
Baltimore	47	22	21	4	46	47	0	0	21	30	0	391
Houston	46	13	29	4	43	44	1	2	21	32	2	388
Pittsburgh	41	10	28	3	41	41	0	0	27	31	0	368
Miami	41	22	15	4	37	38	1	3	25	28	0	360
Tennessee	39	19	16	4	37	37	1	2	27	32	0	354
New York Jets	37	21	12	4	32	32	2	5	30	36	0	348
Denver	34	9	21	4	32	32	0	2	30	35	0	326
Cincinnati	34	9	21	4	28	29	2	5	23	28	0	305
Kansas City	31	8	18	5	29	29	1	2	25	29	1	294
Jacksonville	34	19	15	0	30	31	1	3	18	28	0	290
Buffalo	25	6	17	2	24	24	0	1	28	33	0	258
Cleveland	25	10	11	4	22	23	1	2	23	25	1	245
Oakland	17	7	10	0	17	17	0	0	26	29	0	197
AFC AVERAGE	37.8	14.2	20.3	3.3	35.3	35.8	0.7	2.0	24.9	30.1	0.3	338.8

PASSING

241+ ATTEMPTS	TEAM	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%	SACKS	LOSS	RATING
Philip Rivers	SD	486	317	65.2	4,254	8.8	28	5.8	81t	9	1.9	25	167	104.4
Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	506	337	66.6	4,328	8.6	26	5.1	60t	12	2.4	50	348	100.5
Peyton Manning	IND	571	393	68.8	4,500	7.9	33	5.8	80t	16	2.8	10	74	99.9
Matt Schaub	HOU	583	396	67.9	4,770	8.2	29	5.0	72t	15	2.6	25	149	98.6
Tom Brady	NE	565	371	65.7	4,398	7.8	28	5.0	81t	13	2.3	16	86	96.2
Joe Flacco	BAL	499	315	63.1	3,613	7.2	21	4.2	72t	12	2.4	36	218	88.9
Kyle Orton	DEN	541	336	62.1	3,802	7.0	21	3.9	87t	12	2.2	29	159	86.8
Carson Palmer	CIN	466	282	60.5	3,094	6.6	21	4.5	73	13	2.8	26	213	83.6
David Garrard	JAC	516	314	60.9	3,597	7.0	15	2.9	63	10	1.9	42	236	83.5
Vince Young	TEN	259	152	58.7	1,879	7.3	10	3.9	66t	7	2.7	9	36	82.8
Chad Henne	MIA	451	274	60.8	2,878	6.4	12	2.7	67	14	3.1	26	176	75.2
Matt Cassel	KC	493	271	55.0	2,924	5.9	16	3.2	61	16	3.2	42	243	69.9
Brady Quinn	CLE	256	136	53.1	1,339	5.2	8	3.1	59t	7	2.7	19	104	67.2
Mark Sanchez	NYJ	364	196	53.8	2,444	6.7	12	3.3	65t	20	5.5	26	195	63.0
JaMarcus Russell	OAK	246	120	48.8	1,287	5.2	3	1.2	86t	11	4.5	33	207	50.0

NET PUNTING

43+ PUNTS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Shane Lechler	OAK	96	4909	70	51.1	12	0	63	459	30	43.9
Dustin Colquitt	KC	96	4361	70	45.4	6	1	40	285	41	40.8
Brian Moorman	BUF	90	4192	73	46.6	10	0	49	377	25	40.2
Brandon Fields	MIA	75	3472	66	46.3	6	0	43	369	25	39.8
Matt Turk	HOU	67	2866	62	42.8	6	0	24	104	24	39.4
Mike Scifres	SD	52	2342	65	45.0	2	0	23	265	23	39.2
Dave Zastudil	CLE	49	2188	60	44.7	5	0	22	170	25	39.1
Adam Podlesh	JAC	72	3017	64	41.9	5	0	38	159	23	38.3
Mitch Berger	DEN	51	2142	65	42.0	2	0	23	169	13	37.9
Sam Koch	BAL	73	3188	60	43.7	5	1	38	287	26	37.9
Pat McAfee	IND	64	2837	60	44.3	6	0	36	301	21	37.8
Daniel Sepulveda	PIT	72	3074	60	42.7	4	0	33	325	29	37.1
Steve Weatherford	NYJ	80	3357	66	42.0	9	0	27	238	25	36.7
Reggie Hodges	CLE	45	1789	54	39.8	3	0	18	92	15	36.4
Kevin Huber	CIN	86	3713	61	43.2	10	0	39	393	24	36.3
Chris Hanson	NE	56	2221	56	39.7	5	1	20	180	18	34.1

SCORING

KICKERS	TEAM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Nate Kaeding	SD	50	51	32	35	146
Stephen Gostkowski	NE	47	47	26	31	125
Jay Feely	NYJ	32	32	30	36	122
Matt Prater	DEN	32	32	30	35	122
Jeff Reed	PIT	41	41	27	31	122
Rob Bironas	TEN	37	37	27	32	118
Dan Carpenter	MIA	37	38	25	28	112
Rian Lindell	BUF	24	24	28	33	108
Kris Brown	HOU	43	44	21	32	106
Ryan Succop	KC	29	29	25	29	104
Shayne Graham	CIN	28	29	23	28	97
Sebastian Janikowski	OAK	17	17	26	29	95
Josh Scobee	JAC	30	31	18	28	84
Phil Dawson	CLE	18	19	17	19	69
Matt Stover	IND	33	33	9	11	60
Billy Cundiff	BAL	23	23	18	23	55
Adam Vinatieri	IND	17	18	7	9	38

NON-KICKERS	TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	2PT	PTS
Chris Johnson	TEN	16	14	2	0	1	98
Maurice Jones-Drew	JAC	16	15	1	0	0	96
Thomas Jones	NYJ	14	14	0	0	0	84
Willis McGahee	BAL	14	12	2	0	0	84
Randy Moss	NE	13	0	13	0	1	80
Ricky Williams	MIA	13	11	2	0	1	80
Joseph Addai	IND	13	10	3	0	0	78
LaDainian Tomlinson	SD	12	12	0	0	0	72
Dallas Clark	IND	10	0	10	0	0	60
Brandon Marshall	DEN	10	0	10	0	0	60
Reggie Wayne	IND	10	0	10	0	0	60
Jamaal Charles	KC	9	7	1	1	1	56
Andre Johnson	HOU	9	0	9	0	1	56
Vincent Jackson	SD	9	0	9	0	0	54
Laurence Maroney	NE	9	9	0	0	0	54
Knowshon Moreno	DEN	9	7	2	0	0	54
Chad Ochocinco	CIN	9	0	9	0	0	54
Ronnie Brown	MIA	8	8	0	0	0	48
Antonio Gates	SD	8	0	8	0	0	48
Rashard Mendenhall	PIT	8	7	1	0	0	48
Ray Rice	BAL	8	7	1	0	0	48
Darren Sproles	SD	8	3	4	1	0	48
Austin Collie	IND	7	0	7	0	0	42
Lee Evans	BUF	7	0	7	0	0	42
Jerome Harrison	CLE	7	5	2	0	0	42
Jacoby Jones	HOU	7	0	6	1	0	42
Derrick Mason	BAL	7	0	7	0	0	42
Mike Sims-Walker	JAC	7	0	7	0	0	42
Steve Slaton	HOU	7	3	4	0	0	42
Cedric Benson	CIN	6	6	0	0	0	36
Josh Cribbs	CLE	6	1	1	4	0	36
Todd Heap	BAL	6	0	6	0	0	36
Heath Miller	PIT	6	0	6	0	0	36
Terrell Owens	BUF	6	1	5	0	0	36
Mike Wallace	PIT	6	0	6	0	0	36
Hines Ward	PIT	6	0	6	0	0	36
Nate Washington	TEN	6	0	6	0	0	36
Laveranues Coles	CIN	5	0	5	0	0	30
Owen Daniels	HOU	5	0	5	0	0	30
Santonio Holmes	PIT	5	0	5	0	0	30
Ryan Moats	HOU	5	4	1	0	0	30
Benjamin Watson	NE	5	0	5	0	0	30
Braylon Edwards	NYJ	4	0	4	0	1	26
Dwayne Bowe	KC	4	0	4	0	0	24
Chris Chambers	KC	4	0	4	0	0	24
Jerricho Cotchery	NYJ	4	1	3	0	0	24
Pierre Garcon	IND	4	0	4	0	0	24
Brian Hartline	MIA	4	1	3	0	0	24
Fred Jackson	BUF	4	2	2	0	0	24
Louis Murphy	OAK	4	0	4	0	0	24
Brandon Stokley	DEN	4	0	4	0	0	24
Fred Taylor	NE	4	4	0	0	0	24
Mike Tolbert	SD	4	1	3	0	0	24
Wes Welker	NE	4	0	4	0	0	24

ZUMA / NEWSCOM

NFC '09 stats

Aaron Rodgers

SCORING

KICKERS	TEAM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
David Akers	PHI	43	45	32	37	139
Ryan Longwell	MIN	54	55	26	28	132
Mason Crosby	GB	48	49	27	36	129
Lawrence Tynes	NYG	45	45	27	32	126
Robbie Gould	CHI	33	33	24	28	105
Olindo Mare	SEA	28	28	24	26	100
John Kasay	CAR	31	32	22	27	97
Nick Folk	DAL	36	36	18	28	90
John Carney	NO	50	52	13	17	89
Jason Hanson	DET	25	25	21	28	88
Neil Rackers	ARI	37	38	16	17	85
Joe Nedney	SF	33	33	17	21	84
Josh Brown	STL	16	16	19	24	73
Jason Elam	ATL	32	33	12	19	68
Matt Stover	IND	33	33	9	11	60
Billy Cundiff	BAL	23	23	18	23	55
Adam Vinatieri	IND	17	18	7	9	38

NON-KICKERS	TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	2PT	PTS
Adrian Peterson	MIN	18	18	0	0	0	108
Vernon Davis	SF	13	0	13	0	0	78
Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	13	0	13	0	0	78
Frank Gore	SF	13	10	3	0	0	78
DeSean Jackson	PHI	12	1	9	2	0	72
Miles Austin	DAL	11	0	11	0	0	66
Ryan Grant	GB	11	11	0	0	0	66
Visanthe Shiancoe	MIN	11	0	11	0	0	66
Jonathan Stewart	CAR	11	10	1	0	0	66
Roddy White	ATL	11	0	11	0	0	66
Robert Meachem	NO	10	1	9	0	0	60
Michael Turner	ATL	10	10	0	0	0	60
Marques Colston	NO	9	0	9	0	0	54
Reggie Bush	NO	8	5	3	0	0	48
Brent Celek	PHI	8	0	8	0	0	48
Percy Harvin	MIN	8	0	6	2	0	48
Tim Hightower	ARI	8	8	0	0	0	48
Greg Olsen	CHI	8	0	8	0	0	48
Sidney Rice	MIN	8	0	8	0	0	48
Pierre Thomas	NO	8	6	2	0	0	48
Steve Smith	CAR	7	0	7	0	1	44
DeAngelo Williams	CAR	7	7	0	0	1	44
Marion Barber	DAL	7	7	0	0	0	42
Ahmad Bradshaw	NYG	7	7	0	0	0	42
John Carlson	SEA	7	0	7	0	0	42
Patrick Crayton	DAL	7	0	5	2	0	42
Steve Smith	NYG	7	0	7	0	0	42
Beanie Wells	ARI	7	7	0	0	0	42
Roy E. Williams	DAL	7	0	7	0	0	42
Cadillac Williams	TB	7	4	3	0	0	42
Fred Davis	WAS	6	0	6	0	0	36
Donald Driver	GB	6	0	6	0	0	36
Tony Gonzalez	ATL	6	0	6	0	0	36
Brandon Jacobs	NYG	6	5	1	0	0	36
Johnny Knox	CHI	6	0	5	1	0	36
Hakeem Nicks	NYG	6	0	6	0	0	36
Kevin Smith	DET	5	4	1	0	0	32
Donnie Avery	STL	5	0	5	0	0	30
Mike Bell	NO	5	5	0	0	0	30
Anquan Boldin	ARI	5	1	4	0	0	30
Kevin Boss	NYG	5	0	5	0	0	30
Jermichael Finley	GB	5	0	5	0	0	30
Justin Forsett	SEA	5	4	1	0	0	30
Calvin Johnson	DET	5	0	5	0	0	30
James Jones	GB	5	0	5	0	0	30
Mario Manningham	NYG	5	0	5	0	0	30
Aaron Rodgers	GB	5	5	0	0	0	30
Jason Snelling	ATL	5	4	1	0	0	30
Kellen Winslow	TB	5	0	5	0	0	30
Greg Jennings	GB	4	0	4	0	2	28
Matt Forte	CHI	4	4	0	0	1	26
LeSean McCoy	PHI	4	4	0	0	1	26
Devin Aromashodu	CHI	4	0	4	0	0	24
Bernard Berrian	MIN	4	0	4	0	0	24
Antonio Bryant	TB	4	0	4	0	0	24
Spencer Havner	GB	4	0	4	0	0	24
Steven Jackson	STL	4	4	0	0	0	24
Julius Jones	SEA	4	2	2	0	0	24

TOMASSO DEROSA

TEAM SCORING

TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	2PTA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
New Orleans	64	21	34	9	60	63	0	1	22	28	0	510
Minnesota	56	19	34	3	54	55	0	1	26	28	1	470
Green Bay	54	20	30	4	48	49	3	5	27	36	1	461
Philadelphia	47	14	27	6	43	45	2	2	32	37	2	429
New York Giants	46	14	28	3	45	45	0	1	27	32	0	402
Arizona	46	16	27	4	45	46	0	0	18	19	0	375
Atlanta	43	15	26	3	42	43	0	1	19	29	0	363
Dallas	43	14	26	3	41	41	1	1	20	31	0	361
San Francisco	39	12	23	4	39	39	0	0	19	24	0	330
Chicago	36	6	27	3	33	33	2	2	24	28	1	327
Carolina	35	18	16	1	31	32	2	3	22	27	2	315
Seattle	30	7	20	3	28	28	0	2	24	26	0	280
Washington	29	8	21	0	26	28	0	1	22	25	0	266
Detroit	28	9	16	3	25	25	1	3	21	28	2	262
Tampa Bay	28	5	18	5	24	24	2	4	16	26	0	244
St. Louis	17	4	12	1	16	16	0	1	19	24	0	175
NFL AVERAGE	40.1	12.6	24.1	3.3	36.9	37.31	0.8	1.75	22.4	28	0.6	348.8

PASSING

241+ ATTEMPTS	TEAM	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%	SACKS	LOSS	RATING
Drew Brees	NO	514	363	70.6	4,388	8.5	34	6.6	75T	11	2.1	20	135	109.6
Brett Favre	MIN	531	363	68.4	4,202	7.9	33	6.5	63	7	1.3	34	247	107.2
Aaron Rodgers	GB	541	350	64.7	4,434	8.2	30	5.5	83T	7	1.3	50	306	103.2
Tony Romo	DAL	550	347	63.1	4,483	8.2	26	4.7	80T	9	1.6	34	196	97.6
Kurt Warner	ARI	513	339	66.1	3,753	7.3	26	5.1	45	14	2.7	24	172	93.2
Eli Manning	NYG	509	317	62.3	4,021	7.9	27	5.3	74T	14	2.8	30	216	93.1
Donovan McNabb	PHI	443	267	60.3	3,553	8.0	22	4.9	60T	10	2.6	35	264	92.9
Jason Campbell	WAS	507	327	64.5	3,618	7.1	20	3.9	84	15	3.9	43	285	86.4
Alex Smith	SF	372	225	60.5	2,350	6.3	18	4.8	73T	12	3.2	22	134	81.5
Matt Ryan	ATL	451	263	58.3	2,916	6.5	22	4.9	90T	14	3.1	19	92	80.9
Jay Cutler	CHI	555	336	60.5	3,666	6.6	27	4.9	71	26	4.7	35	204	76.8
Matt Hasselbeck	SEA	488	293	60.0	3,029	6.2	17	3.5	53	17	3.5	32	209	75.1
Marc Bulger	STL	247	140	56.7	1,469	5.9	5	2.0	50	6	2.4	14	85	70.7
Matthew Stafford	DET	377	201	53.3	2,267	6.0	13	3.4	75T	20	5.3	24	169	61.0
Josh Freeman	TB	290	158	54.5	1,855	6.4	10	3.4	42T	18	6.2	20	102	59.8
Jake Delhomme	CAR	321	178	55.5	2,015	6.3	8	2.5	52	18	5.6	23	187	59.4

NET PUNTING

43+ PUNTS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Donnie Jones	STL	90	4,212	63	46.8	10	0	41	260	34	41.7
Andy Lee	SF	99	4,711	64	47.6	8	0	57	495	30	41.0
Ben Graham	ARI	86	4,045	64	47.0	3	0	47	493	42	40.6
Mat McBriar	DAL	72	3,249	63	45.1	3	0	38	314	38	39.9
Jon Ryan	SEA	88	4,068	70	46.2	9	0	43	479	28	38.7
Sav Rocca	PHI	76	3,222	61	42.4	4	0	39	229	26	38.3
Chris Kluwe	MIN	73	3,202	60	43.9	9	0	33	260	24	37.8
Brad Maynard	CHI	77	3,191	66	41.4	2	0	34	272	26	37.4
Nick Harris	DET	74	3,174	56	42.9	5	0	41	354	20	36.8
Hunter Smith	WAS	57	2,356	59	41.3	5	0	22	158	23	36.8
Dirk Johnson	TB	62	2,558	63	41.3	3	0	29	222	16	36.7
Jason Baker	CAR	76	3,352	61	44.1	4	1	41	452	22	36.6
Michael Koenen	ATL	61	2,598	70	42.6	3	1	27	289	18	36.3
Jeff Feagles	NYG	64	2,604	59	40.7	2	0	28	258	23	36.0
Thomas Morstead	NO	58	2,528	60	43.6	4	0	25	358	18	36.0
Jeremy Kapinos	GB	66	2,891	58	43.8	10	1	40	403	15	34.1

Elvis Dumervil

SACKS

4.0+ SACKS	TEAM	NO
Elvis Dumervil	DEN	17.0
Dwight Freeney	IND	13.5
LaMarr Woodley	PIT	13.5
Tully Banta-Cain	NE	10.0
James Harrison	PIT	10.0
Aaron Schobel	BUF	10.0
Robert Mathis	IND	9.5
Joey Porter	MIA	9.0
Mario Williams	HOU	9.0
Tamba Hali	KC	8.5
Antwan Odom	CIN	8.0
Calvin Pace	NYJ	8.0
Greg Ellis	OAK	7.0
Shaun Phillips	SD	7.0
Trevor Scott	OAK	7.0
Randy Starks	MIA	7.0
Jason Taylor	MIA	7.0
Lawrence Timmons	PIT	7.0
Shaun Ellis	NYJ	6.5
Trevor Pryce	BAL	6.5
Kamerion Wimbley	CLE	6.5
Jonathan Fanene	CIN	6.0
Jarret Johnson	BAL	6.0
David Bowens	CLE	5.5
Jacob Ford	TEN	5.5
David Harris	NYJ	5.5
Cameron Wake	MIA	5.5
Tony Brown	TEN	5.0
Derrick Burgess	NE	5.0
Vonnie Holliday	DEN	5.0
Chris Kelsay	BUF	5.0
Mike Wright	NE	5.0
Connor Barwin	HOU	4.5
Wallace Gilberry	KC	4.5
Antonio Smith	HOU	4.5
Terrell Suggs	BAL	4.5
Brian Cushing	HOU	4.0
William Hayes	TEN	4.0
Jason Jones	TEN	4.0
Shawne Merriman	SD	4.0
Darrell Reid	DEN	4.0
Matt Roth	CLE	4.0
Richard Seymour	OAK	4.0
Matt Shaughnessy	OAK	4.0
Kyle Williams	BUF	4.0
Corey Williams	CLE	4.0

RUSHING

112+ YARDS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Chris Johnson	TEN	358	2,006	5.6	91t	14
Thomas Jones	NYJ	331	1,402	4.2	71t	14
Maurice Jones-Drew	JAC	312	1,391	4.5	80t	15
Ray Rice	BAL	254	1,339	5.3	59t	7
Cedric Benson	CIN	301	1,251	4.2	42	6
Ricky Williams	MIA	241	1,121	4.7	68t	11
Jamaal Charles	KC	190	1,120	5.9	76t	7
Rashard Mendenhall	PIT	242	1,108	4.6	60	7
Fred Jackson	BUF	237	1,062	4.5	43	2
Knowshon Moreno	DEN	247	947	3.8	36	7
Jerome Harrison	CLE	194	862	4.4	71t	5
Joseph Addai	IND	219	828	3.8	21t	10
Laurence Maroney	NE	194	757	3.9	45t	9
LaDainian Tomlinson	SD	223	730	3.3	36	12
Ronnie Brown	MIA	147	648	4.4	45	8
Correll Buckhalter	DEN	120	642	5.4	45t	1
Michael Bush	OAK	123	589	4.8	60	3
Willis McGahee	BAL	109	544	5.0	77t	12
Shonn Greene	NYJ	108	540	5.0	33t	2
Jamal Lewis	CLE	143	500	3.5	18	0
Justin Fargas	OAK	129	491	3.8	35	3
Marshawn Lynch	BUF	120	450	3.8	47	2
Steve Slaton	HOU	131	437	3.3	32t	3
Ryan Moats	HOU	101	390	3.9	17	4
Willie Parker	PIT	98	389	4.0	34	0

RECEIVING

20+ CATCHES	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wes Welker	NE	123	1,348	11.0	58	4
Andre Johnson	HOU	101	1,569	15.5	72t	9
Brandon Marshall	DEN	101	1,120	11.1	75t	10
Dallas Clark	IND	100	1,106	11.1	80t	10
Reggie Wayne	IND	100	1,264	12.6	65t	10
Hines Ward	PIT	95	1,167	12.3	54	6
Randy Moss	NE	83	1,264	15.2	71t	13
Antonio Gates	SD	79	1,157	14.6	56	8
Santonio Holmes	PIT	79	1,248	15.8	57	5
Ray Rice	BAL	78	702	9.0	63	1
Davone Bess	MIA	76	758	10.0	34t	2
Heath Miller	PIT	76	789	10.4	41	6
Derrick Mason	BAL	73	1,028	14.1	72t	7
Chad Ochocinco	CIN	72	1,047	14.5	50	9
Vincent Jackson	SD	68	1,167	17.2	55	9
Zach Miller	OAK	66	805	12.2	86t	3
Mike Sims-Walker	JAC	63	869	13.8	61t	7
Austin Collie	IND	60	676	11.3	39t	7
Jerricho Cotchery	NYJ	57	821	14.4	53	3
Terrell Owens	BUF	55	829	15.1	98t	5
Jabar Gaffney	DEN	54	732	13.6	49	2
Todd Heap	BAL	53	593	11.2	31	6
Maurice Jones-Drew	JAC	53	374	7.1	19	1
Kevin Walter	HOU	53	611	11.5	41	2
Joseph Addai	IND	51	336	6.6	25	3
Andre Caldwell	CIN	51	432	8.5	24	3
Torry Holt	JAC	51	722	14.2	63	0
Greg Camarillo	MIA	50	552	11.0	29	0
Chris Johnson	TEN	50	503	10.1	69t	2
Mike Thomas	JAC	48	453	9.4	28	1
Dwayne Bowe	KC	47	589	12.5	41	4
Pierre Garçon	IND	47	765	16.3	66	4
Nate Washington	TEN	47	569	12.1	35	6
Fred Jackson	BUF	46	371	8.1	21	2
Malcom Floyd	SD	45	776	17.2	53	1
Dustin Keller	NYJ	45	522	11.6	40	2
Bo Scaife	TEN	45	440	9.8	27	1
Darren Sproles	SD	45	497	11.0	81t	4
Lee Evans	BUF	44	612	13.9	50	7
Steve Slaton	HOU	44	417	9.5	38t	4
Laveranues Coles	CIN	43	514	12.0	40	5
Kenny Britt	TEN	42	701	16.7	57	3
Jamaal Charles	KC	40	297	7.4	49	1
Owen Daniels	HOU	40	519	13.0	44	5

INTERCEPTIONS

2+ INTERCEPTIONS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jairus Byrd	BUF	9	118	13.1	37	0
Leon Hall	CIN	6	47	7.8	26	0
Johnathan Joseph	CIN	6	92	15.3	32	1
Darrelle Revis	NYJ	6	121	20.2	67t	1
Leigh Bodden	NE	5	60	12.0	53t	1
Cortland Finnegan	TEN	5	194	38.8	80	1
Brandon Flowers	KC	5	38	7.6	33	0
Andre Goodman	DEN	5	65	13.0	30	0
Brandon Meriweather	NE	5	149	29.8	56	1
Antoine Bethea	IND	4	19	4.8	19	0
Derek Cox	JAC	4	6	1.5	6	0
Brian Cushing	HOU	4	26	6.5	20	0
Vontae Davis	MIA	4	64	16.0	26	1
Domonique Foxworth	BAL	4	34	8.5	19	0
Dawan Landry	BAL	4	89	22.3	48t	1
Bernard Pollard	HOU	4	121	30.3	70t	1
Brodney Pool	CLE	4	33	8.3	32	0
George Wilson	BUF	4	23	5.8	27	0
Eric Wright	CLE	4	74	18.5	47	0
Champ Bailey	DEN	3	18	6.0	11	0
Yeremiah Bell	MIA	3	48	16.0	29	0
Mike Brown	KC	3	13	4.3	10	0
Keith Bulluck	TEN	3	45	15.0	23	0
Darius Butler	NE	3	91	30.3	91t	1
Ryan Clark	PIT	3	0	0.0	0	0
Antonio Cromartie	SD	3	17	5.7	16	0
Vincent Fuller	TEN	3	71	23.7	45t	2
Roderick Hood	TEN	3	91	30.3	43	1
Chris Hope	TEN	3	24	8.0	24	0
Michael Huff	OAK	3	15	5.0	10	0
Quentin Jammer	SD	3	25	8.3	21	0
Derrick Johnson	KC	3	175	58.3	70	2
Chris Johnson	OAK	3	20	6.7	20	0
Jacob Lacey	IND	3	53	17.7	35t	1
Dwight Lowery	NYJ	3	41	13.7	34	0
Rashean Mathis	JAC	3	46	15.3	29	0
Troy Polamalu	PIT	3	17	5.7	16	0

KICK RETURNS

20+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Josh Cribbs	CLE	56	1542	27.5	103t	3
Stefan Logan	PIT	55	1466	26.7	83	0
Jacoby Jones	HOU	24	638	26.6	95t	1
Lardarius Webb	BAL	35	918	26.2	95t	1
Jamaal Charles	KC	36	925	25.7	97t	1
Ted Ginn Jr.	MIA	52	1296	24.9	101t	2
Mike Thomas	JAC	26	644	24.8	43	0
Fred Jackson	BUF	41	1014	24.7	71	0
Darren Sproles	SD	54	1300	24.1	66	0
Eddie Royal	DEN	26	621	23.9	93t	1
Andre Davis	HOU	33	782	23.7	63	0
Chad Simpson	IND	38	898	23.6	93t	1
Kenny Britt	TEN	24	523	21.8	56	0
Jonathan Holland	OAK	28	550	19.6	60	0
Andre Caldwell	CIN	29	539	18.6	39	0

PUNT RETURNS

21+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wes Welker	NE	27	16	338	12.5	69	0
Quan Cosby	CIN	40	19	474	11.9	60	0
Josh Cribbs	CLE	38	3	452	11.9	67t	1
Eddie Royal	DEN	30	13	335	11.2	71t	1
Jacoby Jones	HOU	39	14	426	10.9	62	0
Jerricho Cotchery	NYJ	23	12	236	10.3	31	0
Stefan Logan	PIT	30	15	280	9.3	25	0
Chris Carr	BAL	32	17	262	8.2	34	0
Jim Leonhard	NYJ	21	13	173	8.2	37	0
Bobby Wade	KC	21	19	160	7.6	18	0
Davone Bess	MIA	28	13	209	7.5	22	0
Darren Sproles	SD	26	12	183	7.0	77t	1
T.J. Rushing	IND	21	22	119	5.7	22	0
Roscoe Parrish	BUF	24	13	133	5.5	31	0

Â PETER AIKEN / CAL SPORT MEDIA / NEWSCOM

INTERCEPTIONS

2+ INTERCEPTIONS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Asante Samuel	PHI	9	117	13.0	37	0
Darren Sharper	NO	9	376	41.7	99T	3
Charles Woodson	GB	9	179	19.8	45T	3
Zack Bowman	CHI	6	67	11.2	39	0
Nick Collins	GB	6	110	18.3	31	0
Brent Grimes	ATL	6	17	2.8	11	0
Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	ARI	6	77	12.8	49T	1
Sheldon Brown	PHI	5	152	30.4	83T	1
Tanard Jackson	TB	5	86	17.2	35T	2
Mike Jenkins	DAL	5	0	0.0	0	0
Aqib Talib	TB	5	99	19.8	32	0
Terrell Thomas	NYG	5	87	17.4	33	1
Adrian Wilson	ARI	5	56	11.2	41	0
Atari Bigby	GB	4	14	3.5	14	0
Chris Gamble	CAR	4	55	13.8	41	0
Dashon Goldson	SF	4	39	9.75	34	0
Cedric Griffin	MIN	4	-2	0.5	0	0
DeAngelo Hall	WA	4	114	28.5	44	0
Richard Marshall	CAR	4	47	11.8	28	0
Tracy Porter	NO	4	72	18	54T	1
Antrel Rolle	ARI	4	71	17.8	29	0
Tramon Williams	GB	4	94	23.5	67	0
Jon Beason	CAR	3	46	15.3	18	0
Dre' Bly	SF	3	66	22.0	31	0
James Butler	STL	3	17	5.7	17	0
Thomas DeCoud	ATL	3	25	8.3	15	0
Deon Grant	SEA	3	7	2.3	7	0
Chad Greenway	MIN	3	49	16.3	36	0
Chris Harris	CAR	3	3	1.0	3	0
David Hawthorne	SEA	3	9	3.0	5	0
Elbert Mack	TB	3	36	12.0	36	0
Sherrod Martin	CAR	3	35	11.6	23	0
Terence Newman	DAL	3	36	12.0	7T	1
Jonathan Vilma	NO	3	25	8.3	11	0
Patrick Willis	SF	3	33	11.0	3T	1
Oshiomogho Atogwe	STL	2	21	10.5	12	0
Jordan Babineaux	SEA	2	18	9.0	18	0

KICK RETURNS

20+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Clifton Brown	TB	31	902	29.1	83	0
Johnny Knox	CHI	32	927	29.0	102t	1
Percy Harvin	MIN	42	1156	27.5	101t	2
Courtney Roby	NO	42	1154	27.5	97t	1
Danieal Manning	CHI	28	744	26.6	59	0
Jordy Nelson	GB	25	635	25.4	54	0
Eric Weems	ATL	48	1214	25.3	62	0
Danny Amendola	STL	66	1618	24.5	58	0
LaRod Stephens-Howling	ARI	52	1257	24.2	99t	1
Ellis Hobbs	PHI	20	481	24.1	63	0
Aaron Brown	DET	42	951	22.6	87	0
Domenik Hixon	NYG	57	1291	22.6	68	0
Felix Jones	DAL	30	678	22.6	41	0
Rock Cartwright	WAS	39	868	22.3	42	0
Derrick Williams	DET	42	931	22.2	34	0
Devin Thomas	WAS	20	439	22.0	39	0

PUNT RETURNS

21+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
DeSean Jackson	PHI	29	15	441	15.2	85t	2
Patrick Crayton	DAL	36	23	437	12.1	82t	2
Danny Amendola	STL	31	11	360	11.6	56	0
Darius Reynaud	MIN	30	13	308	10.3	36	0
Clifton Smith	TB	23	8	232	10.1	21	0
Eric Weems	ATL	27	14	270	10.0	28	0
Captain Munnerlyn	CAR	31	10	278	9.0	37	0
Dennis Northcutt	DET	22	15	189	8.6	43	0
Nate Burleson	SEA	30	3	254	8.5	29	0
Devin Hester	CHI	24	5	187	7.8	33	0
Steve Breaston	ARI	38	11	253	6.7	64	0
Reggie Bush	NO	27	9	130	4.8	23	0
Arnaz Battle	SF	21	10	61	2.9	18	0

RUSHING

112+ YARDS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Steven Jackson	STL	324	1,416	4.4	58	4
Adrian Peterson	MIN	314	1,383	4.4	64T	18
Ryan Grant	GB	282	1,253	4.4	62T	11
Jonathan Stewart	CAR	221	1,133	5.1	67T	10
Frank Gore	SF	229	1,120	4.9	80T	10
DeAngelo William	CAR	216	1,117	5.2	77	7
Marion Barber	DAL	214	932	4.4	35	7
Matt Forte	CHI	258	929	3.6	61	4
Michael Turner	ATL	178	871	4.9	58T	10
Brandon Jacobs	NYG	224	835	3.7	31	5
Cadillac Williams	TB	211	823	3.9	35	4
Pierre Thomas	NO	147	793	5.4	34T	6
Beanie Wells	ARI	176	793	4.5	33	7
Ahmad Bradshaw	NYG	163	778	4.8	38	7
Kevin Smith	DET	217	747	3.4	31	4
Felix Jones	DAL	116	685	5.9	56	3
Julius Jones	SEA	177	663	3.7	62T	2
Mike Bell	NO	172	654	3.8	35	5
LeSean McCoy	PHI	155	637	4.1	66T	4
Justin Forsett	SEA	114	619	5.4	35	4
Jason Snelling	ATL	142	613	4.3	31	4
Tim Hightower	ARI	143	598	4.2	50	8
Clinton Portis	WAS	124	494	4.0	78	1
Derrick Ward	TB	114	409	3.6	28	1
Reggie Bush	NO	70	390	5.6	55	5

RECEIVING

20+ CATCHES	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Steve Smith	NYG	107	1,220	11.4	51	7
Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	97	1,092	11.3	34T	13
Jason Witten	DAL	94	1,030	11.0	69	2
Roddy White	ATL	85	1,153	13.6	90T	11
Anquan Boldin	ARI	84	1,024	12.2	44	4
Tony Gonzalez	ATL	83	867	10.4	27	6
Sidney Rice	MIN	83	1,312	15.8	63	8
Miles Austin	DAL	81	1,320	16.3	60T	11
T.J. Houshmandzadeh	SEA	79	911	11.5	53	3
Vernon Davis	SF	78	965	12.4	73T	13
Kellen Winslow	TB	77	884	11.5	42T	5
Brent Celek	PHI	76	971	12.8	47T	8
Marques Colston	NO	70	1,074	15.3	68	9
Donald Driver	GB	70	1,061	15.2	71T	6
Santana Moss	WAS	70	902	12.9	59T	3
Greg Jennings	GB	68	1,113	16.4	83T	4
Calvin Johnson	DET	67	984	14.7	75T	5
Steve Smith	CAR	65	982	15.1	66	7
Nate Burleson	SEA	63	812	12.9	44T	3
Tim Hightower	ARI	63	428	6.8	23	0
DeSean Jackson	PHI	62	1,156	18.6	71T	9
Percy Harvin	MIN	60	790	13.2	51T	6
Greg Olsen	CHI	60	612	10.2	41	8
Matt Forte	CHI	57	471	8.3	37	0
Devin Hester	CHI	57	757	13.3	48	3
Mario Manningham	NYG	57	822	14.4	49	5
Jeremy Maclin	PHI	56	773	13.8	56	4
Visanthe Shiancoe	MIN	56	566	10.1	27	11
Bernard Berrian	MIN	55	618	11.2	40	4
Steve Breaston	ARI	55	712	12.9	45	3
Jermichael Finley	GB	55	676	12.3	62T	5
Earl Bennett	CHI	54	717	13.3	71	2
Muhsin Muhammad	CAR	53	581	11.0	27	1
Frank Gore	SF	52	406	7.8	48	3
Josh Morgan	SF	52	527	10.1	61	3
John Carlson	SEA	51	574	11.3	42	7
Dewey Henderson	NO	51	804	15.8	75T	2
Steven Jackson	STL	51	322	6.3	38	0
Michael Jenkins	ATL	50	635	12.7	50T	1
Antwaan Randle El	WAS	50	530	10.6	44	0
Michael Crabtree	SF	48	625	13.0	50	2
Fred Davis	WAS	48	509	10.6	29	6
Jeremy Shockey	NO	48	569	11.9	66	3
Donnie Avery	STL	47	589	12.5	50	5

DREW HALLOWELL / GETTY IMAGES

SACKS

4.0+ SACKS	TEAM	NO
Jared Allen	MIN	14.5
Will Smith	NO	13.0
Trent Cole	PHI	12.5
Andre Carter	WAS	11.0
Brian Orakpo	WAS	11.0
DeMarcus Ware	DAL	11.0
Julius Peppers	CAR	10.5
Clay Matthews	GB	10.0
Ray Edwards	MIN	8.5
Juqua Parker	PHI	8.0
Calais Campbell	ARI	7.0
Darnell Dockett	ARI	7.0
Osi Umenyiora	NYG	7.0
Darren Howard	PHI	6.5
Manny Lawson	SF	6.5
Leonard Little	STL	6.5
Adewale Ogunleye	CHI	6.5
Stylez White	TB	6.5
Jonathan Babineaux	ATL	6.0
Bertrand Berry	ARI	6.0
Ahmad Brooks	SF	6.0
Alex Brown	CHI	6.0
Jay Ratliff	DAL	6.0
Justin Smith	SF	6.0
Anthony Spencer	DAL	6.0
Justin Tuck	NYG	6.0
Jimmy Wilkerson	TB	6.0
Kevin Williams	MIN	6.0
John Abraham	ATL	5.5
Cliff Avril	DET	5.5
Charles Grant	NO	5.5
Kroy Biermann	ATL	5.0
Tyler Brayton	CAR	5.0
Clark Haggans	ARI	5.0
Parys Haralson	SF	5.0
Anthony Hargrove	NO	5.0
Jason Hunter	DET	5.0
Patrick Kerney	SEA	5.0
Chris Long	STL	5.0
James Hall	STL	4.5
Lawrence Jackson	SEA	4.5
Cullen Jenkins	GB	4.5
Chike Okeafor	ARI	4.5
Julian Peterson	DET	4.5
Brian Robison	MIN	4.5
Nick Barnett	GB	4.0
David Hawthorne	SEA	4.0
Albert Haynesworth	WAS	4.0
Charles Johnson	CAR	4.0
Brad Jones	GB	4.0
Takeo Spikes	SF	4.0
Patrick Willis	SF	4.0

2010 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TELEVISED PRESEASON GAMES

Sunday, Aug. 8		**Sunday, Aug. 22**	
Hall of Fame Game (Canton, Ohio)		Minnesota at San Francisco	8, NBC
Cincinnati vs. Dallas	8, ESPN	**Monday, Aug. 23**	
Thursday, Aug. 12		Arizona at Tennessee	8, ESPN
Carolina at Baltimore	8, ESPN	**Thursday, Aug. 26**	
Monday, Aug. 16		Indianapolis at Green Bay	8, ESPN
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets	8, ESPN	**Friday, Aug. 27**	
Thursday, Aug. 19		San Diego at New Orleans	8, CBS
New England at Atlanta	8, FOX	**Saturday, Aug. 28**	
Friday, Aug. 20		Dallas at Houston	8, CBS
Philadelphia at Cincinnati	8, FOX	**Sunday, Aug. 29**	
		Pittsburgh at Denver	8, FOX

REGULAR-SEASON GAMES

All times Eastern

WEEK 1

Thursday, Sept. 9

Minnesota at New Orleans	8:30

Sunday, Sept. 12

Miami at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Houston	1:00
Detroit at Chicago	1:00
Atlanta at Pittsburgh	1:00
Cleveland at Tampa Bay	1:00
Cincinnati at New England	1:00
Denver at Jacksonville	1:00
Oakland at Tennessee	1:00
Carolina at N.Y. Giants	1:00
San Francisco at Seattle	4:15
Arizona at St. Louis	4:15
Green Bay at Philadelphia	4:15
Dallas at Washington	8:20

Monday, Sept. 13

Baltimore at N.Y. Jets	7:00
San Diego at Kansas City	10:15

WEEK 2

Sunday, Sept. 19

Baltimore at Cincinnati	1:00
Tampa Bay at Carolina	1:00
Buffalo at Green Bay	1:00
Miami at Minnesota	1:00
Chicago at Dallas	1:00
Philadelphia at Detroit	1:00
Arizona at Atlanta	1:00
Kansas City at Cleveland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Tennessee	1:00
Seattle at Denver	4:05
St. Louis at Oakland	4:05
New England at N.Y. Jets	4:15
Houston at Washington	4:15
Jacksonville at San Diego	4:15
N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis	8:20

Monday, Sept. 20

New Orleans at San Francisco	8:30

WEEK 3

Sunday, Sept. 26

Buffalo at New England	1:00
Atlanta at New Orleans	1:00
Detroit at Minnesota	1:00
Cleveland at Baltimore	1:00
Dallas at Houston	1:00
San Francisco at Kansas City	1:00
Tennessee at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay	1:00
Cincinnati at Carolina	1:00
Philadelphia at Jacksonville	4:05
Washington at St. Louis	4:05
Oakland at Arizona	4:15
San Diego at Seattle	4:15
Indianapolis at Denver	4:15
N.Y. Jets at Miami	8:20

Monday, Sept. 27

Green Bay at Chicago	8:30

WEEK 4

(Open date: Dallas, Kansas City, Minnesota, Tampa Bay)

Sunday, Oct. 3

N.Y. Jets at Buffalo	1:00
Seattle at St. Louis	1:00
Carolina at New Orleans	1:00
Detroit at Green Bay	1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland	1:00
Baltimore at Pittsburgh	1:00
Denver at Tennessee	1:00
San Francisco at Atlanta	1:00
Indianapolis at Jacksonville	4:05
Houston at Oakland	4:05
Washington at Philadelphia	4:15
Arizona at San Diego	4:15
Chicago at N.Y. Giants	8:20

Monday, Oct. 4

New England at Miami	8:30

WEEK 5

(Open date: Miami, New England, Pittsburgh, Seattle)

Sunday, Oct. 10

Tampa Bay at Cincinnati	1:00
Atlanta at Cleveland	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Houston	1:00
Kansas City at Indianapolis	1:00
Green Bay at Washington	1:00
Jacksonville at Buffalo	1:00
Denver at Baltimore	1:00
Chicago at Carolina	1:00
St. Louis at Detroit	1:00
New Orleans at Arizona	4:05
San Diego at Oakland	4:15
Tennessee at Dallas	4:15
Philadelphia at San Francisco	8:20

Monday, Oct. 11

Minnesota at N.Y. Jets	8:30

WEEK 6

(Open date: Arizona, Buffalo, Carolina, Cincinnati)

Sunday, Oct. 17

Cleveland at Pittsburgh	1:00
New Orleans at Tampa Bay	1:00
Miami at Green Bay	1:00
San Diego at St. Louis	1:00
Baltimore at New England	1:00
Kansas City at Houston	1:00
Detroit at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Atlanta at Philadelphia	1:00
Seattle at Chicago	1:00
Oakland at San Francisco	4:05
N.Y. Jets at Denver	4:05
Dallas at Minnesota	4:15
Indianapolis at Washington	8:20

Monday, Oct. 18

Tennessee at Jacksonville	8:30

WEEK 7

(Open date: Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, N.Y. Jets)

Sunday, Oct. 24

Philadelphia at Tennessee	1:00
Cincinnati at Atlanta	1:00
Cleveland at New Orleans	1:00
Pittsburgh at Miami	1:00
St. Louis at Tampa Bay	1:00
San Francisco at Carolina	1:00
Washington at Chicago	1:00
Jacksonville at Kansas City	1:00
Buffalo at Baltimore	1:00
Arizona at Seattle	4:05
Oakland at Denver	4:15
New England at San Diego	4:15
Minnesota at Green Bay	8:20

Monday, Oct. 25

N.Y. Giants at Dallas	8:30

WEEK 8

(Open date: Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia)

Sunday, Oct. 31

Green Bay at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Denver at San Francisco*	1:00
Jacksonville at Dallas	1:00
Miami at Cincinnati	1:00
Carolina at St. Louis	1:00
Washington at Detroit	1:00
Buffalo at Kansas City	1:00
Tennessee at San Diego	4:05
Minnesota at New England	4:15
Seattle at Oakland	4:15
Tampa Bay at Arizona	4:15
Pittsburgh at New Orleans	8:20

**in London*

Monday, Nov. 1

Houston at Indianapolis	8:30

WEEK 9

(Open date: Denver, Jacksonville, San Francisco, St. Louis, Tennessee, Washington)

Sunday, Nov. 7

Tampa Bay at Atlanta	1:00
New Orleans at Carolina	1:00
Chicago at Buffalo*	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Detroit	1:00
Miami at Baltimore	1:00
New England at Cleveland	1:00
San Diego at Houston	1:00
Arizona at Minnesota	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Seattle	4:05
Kansas City at Oakland	4:15
Indianapolis at Philadelphia	4:15
Dallas at Green Bay	8:20

**in Toronto*

Monday, Nov. 8

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	8:30

WEEK 10

(Open date: Green Bay, New Orleans, Oakland, San Diego)

Thursday, Nov. 11

Baltimore at Atlanta	8:20

Sunday, Nov. 14

Houston at Jacksonville	1:00
Minnesota at Chicago	1:00
Carolina at Tampa Bay	1:00
Detroit at Buffalo	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
Tennessee at Miami	1:00
Cincinnati at Indianapolis	1:00
Kansas City at Denver	4:05
Dallas at N.Y. Giants	4:15
Seattle at Arizona	4:15
St. Louis at San Francisco	4:15
New England at Pittsburgh	8:20

Monday, Nov. 15

Philadelphia at Washington	8:30

WEEK 11

Thursday, Nov. 18

Chicago at Miami	8:20

Sunday, Nov. 21

Green Bay at Minnesota	1:00
Washington at Tennessee	1:00
Arizona at Kansas City	1:00
Baltimore at Carolina	1:00
Buffalo at Cincinnati	1:00
Detroit at Dallas	1:00
Houston at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Oakland at Pittsburgh	1:00
Cleveland at Jacksonville	1:00
Seattle at New Orleans	4:05
Atlanta at St. Louis	4:05
Tampa Bay at San Francisco	4:05
Indianapolis at New England	4:15
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia	8:20

Note: Sunday night game subject to change

Monday, Nov. 22

Denver at San Diego	8:20

WEEK 12

Thursday, Nov. 25

New England at Detroit	12:30
New Orleans at Dallas	4:15
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets	8:20

Sunday, Nov. 28

Tennessee at Houston	1:00
Tampa Bay at Baltimore	1:00
Jacksonville at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Carolina at Cleveland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Buffalo	1:00
Philadelphia at Chicago	1:00
Minnesota at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Atlanta	1:00
Kansas City at Seattle	4:05
Miami at Oakland	4:05
St. Louis at Denver	4:15
San Diego at Indianapolis	8:20

Note: Sunday night game subject to change

Monday, Nov. 29

San Francisco at Arizona	8:30

WEEK 13

Thursday, Dec. 2

Houston at Philadelphia	8:20

Sunday, Dec. 5

Jacksonville at Tennessee	1:00
Denver at Kansas City	1:00
Washington at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Chicago at Detroit	1:00
Atlanta at Tampa Bay	1:00
New Orleans at Cincinnati	1:00
Buffalo at Minnesota	1:00
Cleveland at Miami	1:00
San Francisco at Green Bay	1:00
Oakland at San Diego	4:05
St. Louis at Arizona	4:15
Dallas at Indianapolis	4:15
Carolina at Seattle	4:15
Pittsburgh at Baltimore	8:20

Note: Sunday night game subject to change

Monday, Dec. 6

N.Y. Jets at New England	8:30

WEEK 14

Thursday, Dec. 9

Indianapolis at Tennessee	8:20

Sunday, Dec. 12

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh	1:00
Atlanta at Carolina	1:00
Green Bay at Detroit	1:00
New England at Chicago	1:00
Cleveland at Buffalo	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota	1:00
Oakland at Jacksonville	1:00
Tampa Bay at Washington	1:00
Seattle at San Francisco	4:05
St. Louis at New Orleans	4:05
Miami at N.Y. Jets	4:15
Kansas City at San Diego	4:15
Denver at Arizona	4:15
Philadelphia at Dallas	8:20

Note: Sunday night game subject to change

Monday, Dec. 13

Baltimore at Houston	8:30

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 16

San Francisco at San Diego	8:20

Sunday, Dec. 19

Buffalo at Miami	1:00
Philadelphia at N.Y.Giants	1:00
Washington at Dallas	1:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati	1:00
Jacksonville at Indianapolis	1:00
Houston at Tennessee	1:00
New Orleans at Baltimore	1:00
Kansas City at St. Louis	1:00
Arizona at Carolina	1:00
Detroit at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	4:05
Denver at Oakland	4:15
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh	4:15
Green Bay at New England	8:20

Note: Sunday night game subject to change

Monday, Dec. 20

Chicago at Minnesota	8:30

WEEK 16

Thursday, Dec. 23

Carolina at Pittsburgh	8:20

Saturday, Dec. 25

Dallas at Arizona	7:30

Sunday, Dec. 26

New England at Buffalo	1:00
San Fransico at St. Louis	1:00
Baltimore at Cleveland	1:00
Detroit at Miami	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Chicago	1:00
Washington at Jacksonville	1:00
Tennessee at Kansas City	1:00
Seattle at Tampa Bay	1:00
Minnesota at Philadelphia	1:00
Houston at Denver	4:05
Indianapolis at Oakland	4:05
N.Y. Giants at Green Bay	4:15
San Diego at Cincinnati	8:20

Note: Sunday night game subject to change

Monday, Dec. 27

New Orleans at Atlanta	8:30

WEEK 17

Sunday, Jan. 2

Miami at New England	1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans	1:00
Carolina at Atlanta	1:00
Dallas at Philadelphia	1:00
Oakland at Kansas City	1:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis	1:00
Jacksonville at Houston	1:00
Cincinnati at Baltimore	1:00
Chicago at Green Bay	1:00
Minnesota at Detroit	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland	1:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets	1:00
San Diego at Denver	4:15
St. Louis at Seattle	4:15
Arizona at San Franciso	4:15

Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:20 p.m.

POSTSEASON GAMES

WILD-CARD GAMES
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 8-9, 2011

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 15-16, 2011

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011

PRO BOWL
Aloha Stadium, Honolulu
Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011

SUPER BOWL 45
Cowboys Stadium, Arlington, Texas
Sunday, Feb. 6, 2011

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COMING SUMMER 2010

2009 SEASON RECAP

AFC

EAST DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New England	10	6	0	.625	427	285
New York Jets*	9	7	0	.563	348	236
Miami	7	9	0	.438	360	390
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	258	326

NORTH DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Cincinnati	10	6	0	.625	305	291
Baltimore*	9	7	0	.563	391	261
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	368	324
Cleveland	5	11	0	.313	245	375

SOUTH DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Indianapolis	14	2	0	.875	416	307
Houston	9	7	0	.563	388	333
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	354	402
Jacksonville	7	9	0	.438	290	380

WEST DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
San Diego	13	3	0	.813	454	320
Denver	8	8	0	.500	326	324
Oakland	5	11	0	.313	197	379
Kansas City	4	12	0	.250	294	424

NFC

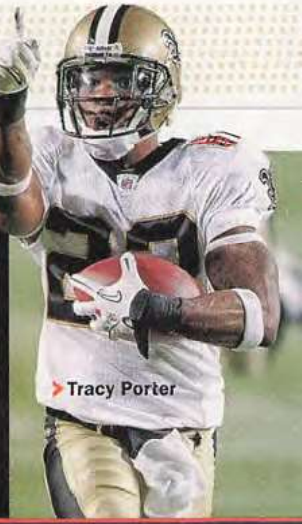
EAST DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Dallas	11	5	0	.688	361	250
Philadelphia*	11	5	0	.688	429	337
New York Giants	8	8	0	.500	402	427
Washington	4	12	0	.250	266	336

NORTH DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Minnesota	12	4	0	.750	470	312
Green Bay*	11	5	0	.688	461	297
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	327	375
Detroit	2	14	0	.125	262	494

SOUTH DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New Orleans	13	3	0	.813	510	341
Atlanta	9	7	0	.563	363	325
Carolina	8	8	0	.500	315	308
Tampa Bay	3	13	0	.188	244	400

WEST DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Arizona	10	6	0	.625	375	325
San Francisco	8	8	0	.500	330	281
Seattle	5	11	0	.313	280	390
St. Louis	1	15	0	.063	175	436

** wild card*



WILD-CARD GAMES

NEW YORK JETS	24
Cincinnati	14
BALTIMORE	33
New England	14
Philadelphia	14
DALLAS	34
Green Bay (OT)	45
ARIZONA	51

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

NEW YORK JETS	17
San Diego	14
Baltimore	3
INDIANAPOLIS	20
Dallas	3
MINNESOTA	34
Arizona	14
NEW ORLEANS	45

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

New York Jets	17
INDIANAPOLIS	30

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Minnesota (OT)	28
NEW ORLEANS	31

SUPER BOWL 44

NEW ORLEANS	31
INDIANAPOLIS	17

WILD-CARD GAMES

> AFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New York Jets	0	14	7	3	24
Cincinnati	7	0	0	7	14

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Baltimore	24	0	3	6	33
New England	0	7	7	0	14

> NFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Philadelphia	0	7	0	7	14
Dallas	0	27	7	0	34

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Final
Green Bay	0	10	14	21	0	45
Arizona	17	7	14	7	6	51

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

> AFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Baltimore	3	0	0	0	3
Indianapolis	3	14	0	3	20

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New York Jets	0	0	3	14	17
San Diego	0	7	0	7	14

> NFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Arizona	7	7	0	0	14
New Orleans	21	14	10	0	45

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Dallas	0	3	0	0	3
Minnesota	7	10	0	17	34

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

AFC > New York Jets at Indianapolis

TEAM STATS	NYJ	IND
Total net rushing	86	101
Total net passing	302	360
Total net yards	388	461
First downs	17	27
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	2-17
Third-down conversions	6-14	4-11
Fourth-down conversions	0-0	0-0
Time of possession	28:35	31:25

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New York Jets	0	17	0	0	17
Indianapolis	0	13	7	10	30

NFC > Minnesota at New Orleans

TEAM STATS	MIN	NO
Total net rushing	165	68
Total net passing	310	189
Total net yards	475	257
First downs	31	15
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	1-8
Third-down conversions	7-12	3-12
Fourth-down conversions	0-0	1-1
Time of possession	36:49	27:56

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Final
Minnesota	14	0	7	7	0	28
New Orleans	7	7	7	7	3	31

SCORING

	QTR	TIME	
IND	1	7:29	Stover 38-yard field goal
IND	1	0:36	Garcon 19-yard pass from Manning (Stover kick)
NO	2	9:34	Hartley 46-yard field goal
NO	2	0:00	Hartley 44-yard field goal
NO	3	11:41	P. Thomas 16-yard pass from Brees (Hartley kick)
IND	3	6:15	Addai 4-yard run (Stover kick)
NO	3	2:01	Hartley 47-yard field goal
NO	4	5:42	Shockey 2-yard pass from Brees (Moore pass from Brees)
NO	4	3:12	Porter 74-yard interception return (Hartley kick)

SUPER BOWL XLIV

AT SUN LIFE STADIUM, MIAMI
FEB. 7, 2010
Attendance: 74,059

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New Orleans	0	6	10	15	31
Indianapolis	10	0	7	0	17

TEAM STATISTICS

	NO	IND
Total net rushing	51	99
Total net passing	281	333
Total net yards	332	432
First downs	20	23
Sacked-yards lost	1-7	0-0
Third-down conversions	3-9	6-13
Fourth-down conversions	0-1	1-2
Time of possession	30:11	29:49

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

>> RUSHING:

New Orleans: P. Thomas 9-30, Bush 5-25, Bell 2-4, Brees 1-(-1), Henderson 1-(-7)

Indianapolis: Addai 13-77-TD, Brown 4-18, Hart 2-4

>> PASSING:

New Orleans: Brees 32-39-288-2 TD

Indianapolis: Manning 31-45-333-TD-INT

>> RECEIVING:

New Orleans: Colston 7-83, Henderson 7-63, P. Thomas 6-55-TD, Bush 4-38, Moore 2-21, Shockey 3-13-TD, D. Thomas 1-9, Meachem 2-6

Indianapolis: Clark 7-86, Collie 6-66, Garcon 5-66-TD, Addai 7-58, Wayne 5-46, Brown 1-11

>> SACKS:

New Orleans: 0

Indianapolis: Freeney 1

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We're a nationwide task force of scouts, 'cappers, draftniks and data analysts. We cover the conferences like a ***Spy in the Sky*** and a ***Fly on the Wall.*** With computer-age metrics, we measure who can beat who, man on man, squad on squad and team on team. And when we match our *equalized* numbers against the Vegas line, **we find the biggest edges and MAKE THE MOST MONEY!**

Here's proof! We had great, good and okay stats last year, but this was a BIGGIE!

IN COLLEGE PLAY OUR DOGS WENT 26-6-2 FOR 81%!!!

That's 20 net winners, and with my units, it's over 100 stars of profit! No wonder customer Howard Murrah of Burlington WI, e-mailed me:

"Jim, I'm up 60 units – and here it is only week five ...You guys are like a machine that prints money!"

And there were lots more:

- **We went 3-0 on our September Big Game Plays** – including:
  September Upset of the Month: Ohio St (+7) USC Won 15-18
  September Blowout of the Month: Air Force (-17) N Mexico Won 37-13
  NFL Move of the Month: Jets (+3 ½) Patriots Won 16-9

WE GOT SO FAR AHEAD, THE MAN NEVER CAUGHT UP!

- **We won Mondays and Thursday by comfortable margins**
- **Our Big Game Plays went 19-7 for 73%**
- **In college play we went 47-22 for 68%**
- We stumbled out of the Gate in NFL play – a rarity for us (though our first 4 losses were by a total of 7½ pts.) But by October **we were up to speed: 13-6 (68.4%)**, and **we reasserted our mastery of the NFL by closing 8-1 in the NFL Playoffs!**

Now it's your turn. Come in for **Blue Ribbon/Search Engine** (Yes, Blue Ribbon members, it's the same club. I just jazzed up the name to reflect its hi-tech origins).

- I will give you my top 2 plays every Saturday and Sunday. Games rated by our **Search Engine** handicapping team as having at least a 2 out of 3 chance to win. Every game is unit-rated (5 to 20 stars) for maximum profit.
- **I will include ALL Game of the Month Plays**
- **I will include ALL Mondays and Thursdays**

Search Engine is the top of the line and it is worth a fortune but my recession year fee is only $349. Furthermore, to make sure you have more cash to make money with, **all I want up front is $199.** Pay me the $150 balance by October 1 and only if you're winning big – and ***YOU*** be the judge! I think that's pretty fair - no?

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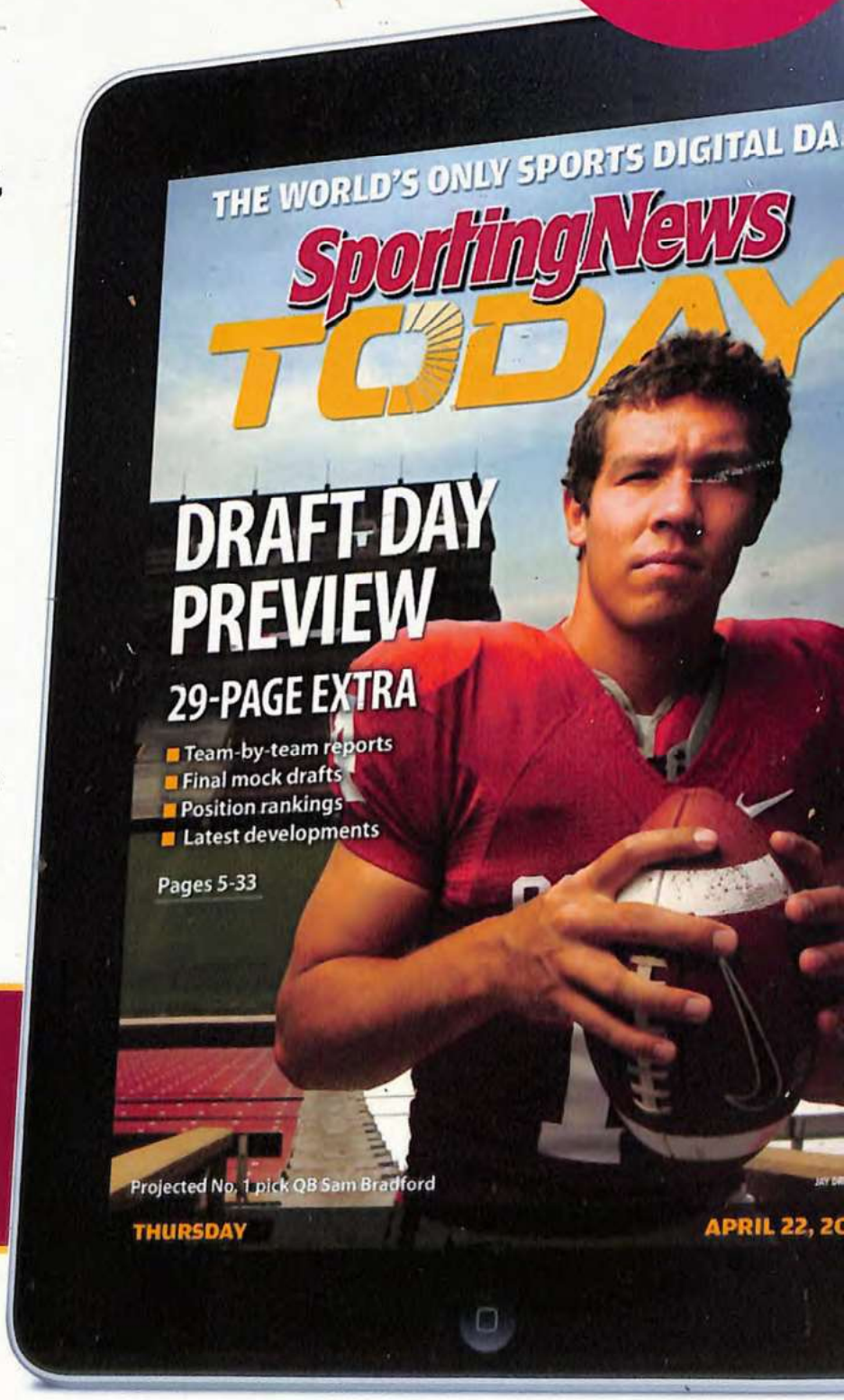

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